Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-045 *8 March 1994*

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Indian Envoy on 'Dangerous' Pakistani Resolution

BK0503110494 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 5 Mar 94

[Text] In a historic decision, the UN Human Rights Commission has condemned terrorism in all its manifestation as a violation of human rights. The ongoing 50th session at Geneva last night adopted a consensus resolution to this effect despite Islamabad's intense behind-the-scene lobby to thwart it. The resolution for the first time recognizes the effect of terrorism on human rights, a point which has been hammered at by India at all the international fora in the wake of transborder export of terrrorism into Jammu and Kashmir. According to observers, the decision will have serious implications for Pakistan-sponsored terrorist activities in Jammu and Kashmir. The resolution reiterates the United Nation's unequivocal condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations as acts of aggression aimed at the destruction of human integrity and security of states, destabilizing legitimately constituted governments, and having adverse consequences on the economic and social development of the states. It calls upon the states to take effective measures to prevent, combat, and eliminate terrorism. The resolution urges the international community to enhance cooperation to fight terrorism at various levels.

India has urged the UN Human Rights Commission members to vote against the Pakistan resolution on Kashmir. Addressing the ongoing session of the commission at Geneva last night, veteran diplomat and former foreign secretary, Mr. T.N. Kaul, said that the resolution has serious and dangerous implications that could allow any country to infringe on the national independence and sovereignty of others. Mr. Kaul was exercising the second right of reply to Pakistan's allegations against india on the Kashmir situation.

Arab-Israeli Talks

'Highest Level' Contacts Under Way To Resume Talks

NC0703121994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1150 GMT 7 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 7 Mar (MENA)—MENA has learned that diplomatic contacts are being held on the "highest level" in Cairo to work out a Palestinian-Israeli formula to overcome the obstacles hindering a UN Security Council resolution condemning the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre, providing international protection for the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, and taking into account the resumption of negotiations in accordance with a Palestinian-Israeli bilateral agreement.

Diplomatic sources have told MENA that the current brief visit to Cairo by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's political adviser Jacques Neriya, comes within these accelerated contacts. 'Arafat categorically rejected a meeting in Cairo with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres at Peres' request.

MENA has learned that the visiting Israeli envoy is carrying a proposal to hold an urgent meeting in Cairo or Washington between 'Arafat and Rabin to reach a formula for an agreement to resume the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations.

The agency has also learned that the Israeli side is willing to implement the Gaza-Jericho Agreement within three weeks from the conclusion of negotiations in this connection.

The Egyptians and Palestinians are making contacts with the United States in its capacity as a sponsor of the peace process to guarantee the safety of the Palestinian people and work out a new basis for negotiations in the stage to come.

Official Palestinian sources have told MENA that no meeting between 'Arafat and Peres is acceptable right now and under the current circumstances, especially as the Palestinian people are worried and lack confidence in the Israeli Government's promises.

Diplomatic sources told MENA that in light of the Palestinians' refusal to meet with Peres, Greek Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias, current chairman of the EU's Ministerial Council, has requested an urgent meeting with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat. In that meeting, held at Cairo Airport, Papoulias handed 'Arafat Israeli proposals aiming to overcome the obstacles facing the resumption of the Palestinian-Israeli peace negotiations.

The Palestinian side, MENA learned, rejected the Israeli proposals, which aim to reach a bilateral deal sidestepping the UN Security Council. The Israeli proposals are in line with the policy approved by the Israeli cabinet in its 27 February session.

The main features of this policy are:

- Emptying the Hebron area of settlers.
- Forming a committee of inquiry into the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre.
- Taking tougher measures against "some" extremist Israeli settlers in the West Bank, such as:

a. The institution of administrative detention.
b. The imposition of military restrictions and control on the movement of some extremists into the West Bank, particularly Hebron.
c. The cancellation of the gun licenses of some extremist Israeli settlers and their disarmament.
d. The Israeli Government's legal adviser is to examine the possibility of outlawing the Kakh and Kahane groups.
e. The release of 1,000 Palestinian detainees. Eight hundred were released last week.

The Israeli Government also decided to pay compensation for the families of the victims of the Hebron massacre.

According to the same diplomatic sources, the massacre at the al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron has created a new reality necessitating a new form of dealing and communication between the Palestinians and the Israelis. The Israelis, for their part, are still trying to prevent the condemnation of the massacre by the UN Security Council.

According to these sources, Rabin maintains that he cannot control the domestic situation in Israel in view of the fragility of the current coalition. It is worth noting that a wave of anger swept through Israel following the massacre.

The Palestinians, meanwhile, insist on international protection of Palestinians living in the occupied territories. Such protection, the Palestinians say, can be provided through the deployment of international observes working either under a mandate from the UN Security Council or a Palestinian-Israeli agreement. Such agreement would specify the number and nationalities of the observers, along the line of the existing agreement between Egypt and Israel.

The Palestinians also insist that all Palestinian detainees in Israel be promptly released. They note that the Palestinian need for security guarantees matches that of the settlers.

It is worth noting that 9,400 Palestinians are in Israeli jails and detention camps, in accordance with the latest Red Cross count.

The Palestinians also seek improved living conditions for the Palestinians living in the occupied territories until the implementation of the self-rule agreement.

'Arafat's Talk With Rabin's Aide Reported

NC0703190294 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 7 Mar 94

[Text] The radio's central news unit correspondent has learned that Jacques Neriya, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's political adviser, met with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat in Cairo today. The Israeli envoy presented the Palestinian president specific Israeli ideas on overcoming the crisis resulting from the attack on worshipers in the al-Ibrahimi Mosque and on creating a general climate that will allow the PLO to resume the negotiations.

President 'Arafat discussed with the Israeli prime minister's adviser the measures that have to be taken to protect the Palestinians in the Arab territories. These measures include the protection of the Palestinians, provision of security for them, and a nonrepetition of the Hebron incident.

The radio correspondent also learned that the Palestinian side stressed the importance of disarming the settlers, restricting or dissolving the extremist organizations, removing the settlers from Hebron and densely populated Palestinian areas, and providing the necessary protection for the Palestinians.

President 'Arafat met with Neriya before the former's departure from Cairo this afternoon.

Palestinian Official on Disputes in Economic Talks

NC0703195994 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 7 Mar 94

[From the "Economic Cast"]

[Text] Ahmad Quray', alias Abu-'Ala', chairman of the Palestinian Reconstruction and Development Council has told MBC Television that Palestinian and Israeli delegations, who have so far held five rounds of economic negotiations, are having differences over the issue of trade and customs duties.

[Begin Quray' recording] We have made some progress on banking and financial issues but we are having a real dispute over trade and customs duties. I wish to point out that, first of all, a new reality has come into being and we must handle issues on the basis of this. The Palestinian territory cannot remain in the same condition during the transitional period as it was during the occupation phase. A new reality exists that should apply to all spheres of activity, be they political, economic, or social. This is the new reality. Another issue is the following: According to the Declaration of Principles there will be economic cooperation with Israel but the Palestinians will continue to have strategic economic relations with their larger Arab homeland. Israel must understand the Palestinian trade relationship with the Arab homeland. The Palestinians must make their own decisions on this matter. A third area of dispute is connected with our determination to decide the level of customs duties and taxes to be imposed on economic development projects. We must also be the only authority to determine how much tax is paid on certain basic commodities. [end recording]

PLO, Israeli Envoys on Security Council Sessions

NC0703224394 London MBC Television in Arabic 2100 GMT 7 Mar 94

[Report on interviews with the PLO's UN Observer Nasir al-Qudwah, and Israeli UN Ambassador Gad Ya'aqobi, by Antoine 'Awn and Fatimah Benhuhu, conducted via satellite link between London and New York on 7 March—recorded; Ya'aqobi speaks English with superimposed Arabic translation]

[Text] Despite the U.S. assurances to Dr. Nabil Sha'th regarding their initial approval of international protection for the Palestinians, PLO Observer at the United

Nations Nasir al-Qudwah told MBC Television a short time ago that disagreement continues with the United States about certain points in the draft resolution. The PLO had announced in a statement made by President Yasir 'Arafat that there will be no return to the negotiations before the Security Council issues a resolution guaranteeing the Palestinian civilians' protection and the disarming of the settlers.

Nasir al-Qudwah answered questions we posed to him during a conversation conducted via satellite link tonight.

[Begin recording] [Al-Qudwah] As far we are concerned, we are doing our utmost to ensure that a Security Council resolution is adopted as soon as possible. Later today there will be a meeting of the representatives of the Arab group and the Islamic group with the same aim, namely to ensure that the Security Council acts swiftly to adopt a resolution. I still have no information and therefore cannot be sure of the exact time when this will happen. We hope it will occur very soon, if not today then tomorrow, God willing.

['Awn] Mr. al-Qudwah, the Palestinians are demanding that the Security Council adopt a resolution providing for the protection of the Palestinians and disarming the settlers before the negotiations are resumed, as Mr. 'Arafat declared. What are the attitudes of the Security Council members to this Palestinian demand?

[Al-Qudwah] True, this is part of the Palestinian demands that we submitted at the start and to which we still totally adhere. The Security Council members are generally supportive of our demands, which they regard as just. Regrettably there were disagreements from the start with the U.S. delegation. We tried, however, through some hard negotiating last week, to find solutions acceptable to both parties. We have had some success but have not yet agreed on a final text.

['Awn] Mr. al-Qudwah, Dr. Nabil Sha'th spoke of a tentative U.S. approval of an international presence in the occupied territories. Why is a resolution being delayed, then?

[Al-Qudwah] There are still some points on which we did not reach agreement in our discussions with the U.S. delegation. These points include Jerusalem's legal status as part of the occupied Palestinian territory. This is a matter on which we can make no concessions whatsoever. Another point is the mechanism by which the implementation of the resolution will be followed up. As for the issue of international protection, we have succeeded in generally agreeing on the wording. In accordance with this, the United States has agreed to an international presence in the occupied Palestinian territories. [end recording]

MBC Television posed a question to Israel's representative at the United Nations Gad Ya'aqobi about Israel's reasons for hindering the adoption of a Security Council resolution on the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre, particularly after it failed to protect the worshipers.

[Begin Ya'aqobi recording] We strongly support the Security Council meeting and a swift resolution because we believe that this issue must be dealt with and finished with so that the negotiations can be resumed and a decision made to implement the two parties' agreements, including the Cairo Agreement. [end recording]

Ya'aqobi affirmed that Israel does not oppose any steps to protect the Palestinians, but he said he believes that the quickest way to provide this protection is by resuming the negotiations so that a Palestinian police force can be established to carry out its tasks in cooperation with the Israeli forces, as he put it. He repeated that Israel has accepted the principle of an international presence in the occupied territories and noted that this phrase will be included in the resolution which the Security Council will issue. He stated, however, that Israel will not agree to renegotiating the Declaration of Principles and the Cairo agreement, warning that this would only hinder the talks and obstruct the implementation of the agreements.

Inter-Arab Affairs

League Sends Messages to Security Council Members

NC0703122794 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 7 Mar 94

[Text] Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid today sent urgent messages to the five permanent members of the UN Security Council prior to the council's meeting later today to adopt a resolution on the Israeli massacre of Palestinians in the al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron.

In the messages, 'Abd-al-Majid voiced all Arab states' concern at the council's delay in adopting a resolution condemning the massacre 10 days after it was committed.

Cordon States To Meet on Suspension of Negotiations

JN0703124094 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 7 Mar 94 p 29

[By Sa'd al-Silawi]

[Excerpt] Informed Palestinian sources have mentioned that intensive contacts are under way to convene a meeting of the cordon states in Cairo.

The sources did not specify the proposed date for this meeting. However, they emphasized that all parties have agreed to hold such a meeting in which the foreign ministers of Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, and the PLO will take part.

The sources said that the meeting's agenda will cover the suspension of negotiations with Israel in light of the 25 February Hebron massacre. [passage omitted]

League Chief: Boycott of Israel To Be Discussed 26 Mar

JN0703143994 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 7 Mar 94 pp 32, 24

[By Hamdan al-Haj]

[Text] Amman—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has stated that the Arab League foreign ministers will meet at its headquarters on 26 March to discuss the Arab boycott of Israel, an issue which the Arab League constantly keeps on its agenda. He stressed that the ministers will discuss the direct and indirect boycott and make the appropriate decision on the issue.

In a telephone conversation with AL-DUSTUR yesterday, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that the ministers will also discuss amending the Arab League Charter by introducing supplements to bring it in line with the current circumstances, changes, and developments.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that the Arab League seeks with all its efforts and capabilities to achieve Arab reconciliation, and overcome the repercussions the Arab nation experiences in the wake of the Gulf crisis by raising the slogan of frankness before reconciliation.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that he summoned the representatives of the UN Security Council permanent and nonpermanent members to inform them about the Arab League denunciation and condemnation of the massacre in the blessed Irahimi Mosque, and asked them to appeal to their countries and governments to take steps to immediately have the UN Security Council issue a resolution condemning the massacre and providing protection for the Palestinians.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that Major General Sa'id Bayraqdar, Arab League assistant secretary general, and head of the Arab League mission to Yemen, phoned him yesterday to brief him on the efforts he is undertaking to settle the Yemeni crisis.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that Maj Gen Bayraqdar will leave for Aden today, Monday to meet Vice President 'ali Salim al-Bid, after which he will return to Sanaa to meet with Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to exchange views on how to settle the differences between the Yemeni brothers.

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 1 Mar

NC0703120094

[Editorial Report] The following review of the 1 March issue of Cairo AL-SHA'B summarizes articles that are Islamic in nature.

CONTENTS:

1. Reaction to Hebron Mosque Massacre
2. Signs of Islamic Victory in Algeria
3. Call for Trial of Minister Yusuf Wali
4. Commentary on Kuwait and Iraq
5. Article by Bosnian President Izetbegovic
6. Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali's Column

REACTION TO HEBRON MOSQUE MASSACRE

In its 1 March issue, the newspaper AL-SHA'B, mouthpiece of the opposition Labor Party, carries extensive reports, comments, and articles on the 25 February massacre at the al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron. On pages 1 and 7, it features a 480-word statement issued by the Muslim Brotherhood denouncing this "ugly criminal, an incident that shows the perfidious and corrupt nature inherent in the treacherous enemy." The statement calls for placing the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and Jerusalem under international supervision and for sending international forces to protect the unarmed civilians.

On pages 1 and 7, the newspaper publishes an 850-word statement issued by the Labor Party condemning the massacre and describing it as "one of the ugliest criminal acts ever committed."

On page 7, the newspaper publishes a joint statement issued by the Muslim Brotherhood, the Labor Party, the Wafd Party, the Liberal Party, the al-Azhar 'Ulema Front, and some public figures, trade unionists, and writers denouncing the incident.

On pages 1 and 7, the newspaper carries an 800-word report by Mahmud Bakri, who castigates the Egyptian Government for not being outspoken in condemning the attack. He says: "While the ugly massacre has exposed the indifference of the international community, especially the U.S., which colludes with and supports Israel, Egypt has contented itself with condemning the massacre." This Egyptian stance has provoked "broad popular anger," more so because the "Egyptian Government has not declared a state of mourning for the souls of the martyrs and has taken no measures to confront the aggressors." Blaming Israel for the blast at a Maronite Church on 27 February, Bakri says: "The Zionists have decided to escalate their war against Muslims and Christians by sowing sedition between them to deflect attention from the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre."

On pages 1 and 7, AL-SHA'B also carries a 1,000-word report on the various demonstrations that have erupted at Egyptian universities to protest the "ugly massacre" against the Palestinians in the al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron. The reports adds that "violent clashes" occurred between the Cairo University students and the police, who used tear gas to disperse the demonstrators marching toward the Israeli Embassy.

On page 2, the newspaper publishes a 1,500-word article by Majdi Ahmad Husayn in which he describes the massacre as "unprecedented" and the "fruit of the

wicked policy" of the Arab and Muslim rulers, a policy that has led Muslims to be "slaughtered like lambs." He criticizes the Arab governments, especially the Egyptian Government, for saying that peace will be pursued despite the massacre. He goes on to say: "Israel's friends in Egypt and the Arab world are accomplices in this massacre, because they have taught Israel to do to us what it wants." He adds that the Egyptian Government, which has portrayed the "crippled" Gaza-Jericho agreement as a victory and a solution of the Palestinian issue, is now completely exposed, naked, without a "fig leaf" to cover itself. The writer calls for the "popular trial" of Yusuf Wali, secretary general of the ruling National Democratic Party, for his "subversive role in supporting Israel at the expense of his country's interests." He adds that force should be met with greater force, saying: "There must be revenge. We must inflict wounds on the Israelis. We must strike them on the head. We must strike them everywhere. This is God's law."

On page 2, the newspaper carries a 700-word article by Dr. Mahjub 'Umar in which he says that Israel's current leaders, including Rabin and Peres, were directly behind the massacre to achieve external and internal political objectives.

On page 3, the newspaper carries a 2,000-word investigative report by Mahmud Bakri in which he interviews several figures on their reaction to the massacre. Among those interviewed are Dr. Ahmad Sidqi al-Dajani, a Palestinian opposed to the Gaza-Jericho accord; Cairo University President Dr. Mufid Shihab; Hafiz Isma'il, former adviser for Egyptian national security; 'Ali-al-Din Salih, leader of the Misr al-Fatah Party; and AL-AHRAM Chief Editor Salah-al-Din Hafiz. They all denounce the massacre.

On page 5, the newspaper carries a 1,000-word article by Mustafa Mashhur, deputy leader of the Muslim Brotherhood. He asks: "Who can guarantee that this massacre will not be repeated" and "How can peace be achieved in this charged atmosphere." He also asks what is the use of Rabin's expressions of regret over the incident and Clinton's remarks that it should not obstruct the peace process. Mahjub sarcastically congratulates 'Arafat on the condolences he has received from some heads of state and for the Israeli Government's readiness to compensate the relatives of the victims. He adds that the Palestinian people will not forget this incident and will take their revenge on the "Zionist enemy."

SIGNS OF ISLAMIC VICTORY IN ALGERIA

An unattributed 300-word report on page 1 describes the Algerian authorities' recent release of several Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] leaders as a "victory for the Islamist current in Algeria." The newspaper links this release with reports on "an impending Cabinet reshuffle in Algeria in which Islamist elements might join the government." This will be considered a victory for the FIS and an admission by the Algerian authorities of the broad popular support for FIS leaders.

CALL FOR TRIAL OF MINISTER YUSUF WALI

AL-SHA'B continues its long campaign against Dr. Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and agriculture minister and secretary general of the ruling National Democratic Party, for his alleged pro-Israeli views and stands. On page 5, it carries a 3,000-word article by Dr. Muhammad Hilmi Murad, deputy leader of the Labor Party, in which he urges a "popular trial" for Wali, who "deliberately" delivered an "official" statement before the People's Assembly praising Israel's scientific and technological superiority. He calls on the Egyptian people to act to remove this "shame." He maintains that Wali could be politically tried "according to Article No. 159 of the Constitution, which gives the People's Assembly the right to refer a minister to trial" for the crimes he commits while performing his duties. He further maintains that this popular move does not absolve the president from using his powers to question the minister about his actions and behavior; otherwise, the people will be excused for believing that the president approves of Wali's statement before the People's Assembly on 5 February.

COMMENTARY ON KUWAIT AND IRAQ

On page 8, the newspaper publishes a 1,000-word article by Mahmud Shukri entitled "Kuwait Celebrates the U.S. Victory and the Victim is the Iraqi People." He says: "Tomorrow, drums will be beaten in Kuwait on the anniversary of the Anglo-U.S.-Israeli victory in the Gulf." He adds: "Those who celebrate the 3d anniversary of the Arab massacre in Iraq, what do they celebrate?" "Do they celebrate because they have enabled the imperialist forces in the United States, France, and England to destroy a Muslim Arab country." "Do they celebrate because they have turned Kuwait into a Western military base?"

ARTICLE BY BOSNIAN PRESIDENT IZETBEGOVIC

On page 9, AL-SHA'B publishes an 800-word article by Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic entitled "Islam Between East and West." He maintains that Western civilization can't face the invasion of licentiousness that is destroying it. He cites the high crime and suicide rates in the United States and Europe and attributes them to licentiousness and alcohol abuse.

SHAYKH MUHAMMAD AL-GHAZALI'S COLUMN

On page 12, the newspaper carries a regular column by Islamic preacher Muhammad al-Ghazali entitled "This is our Religion." In his 500-word column, al-Ghazali says the United States is a superpower and a very civilized country. But there are disturbing health, social, and mental conditions in the United States, he says, citing the U.S. health secretary on the number of crimes and diseases. He says the United States, "which excels scientifically and industrially, is backward religiously

and morally." He contends that instead of reforming its internal conditions, the United States is busy fighting Islam.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Interviewed on Peace Talks, Hebron Attack

Accuses Rabin of Delaying Implementation

AU0703160194 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 7 Mar 94 pp 136-141

[Interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Olaf Ihlau and Volkhard Windfuhr in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] [DER SPIEGEL] Mr. Chairman, the massacre in Hebron is a disaster for the peace process in the Middle East. Will the "peace of the courageous," as President Clinton praised the historic agreement achieved by you and Israeli head of government Yitzhaq Rabin, now end in a capitulation of the discouraged?

['Arafat] There is no doubt that Hebron was an attack on the peace process. I had just signed an agreement with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Cairo, which dealt with confidence building measures and the loosening of the "iron fist" policy that is pursued by Israel. For instance, a large number of interned Palestinians were supposed to be released.

[DER SPIEGEL] Peres promised you this action for the beginning of Ramadan, the month of fasting?

['Arafat] Yes, but this has not taken place. Instead, our people and the entire world were surprised by the massacre. Since the signing of the peace agreement last September, Israel's leadership has constantly engaged in maneuvers to avoid the implementation of the treaty.

[DER SPIEGEL] You get the impression that Rabin is deliberately playing for time?

['Arafat] Of course. It was Rabin who said: "There are no sacrosanct deadlines or topics for negotiation." Thus, the Israeli leadership is fully responsible for the delays in implementing the agreement.

[DER SPIEGEL] But Rabin called you immediately after the massacre and expressed shock about the bloody deed.

['Arafat] This is true. However, what happened there in reality? I was immediately in contact with the hospitals and the injured people. I got the impression—and I told Rabin so—that the Israeli Army had made common cause with the extremist settlers.

[DER SPIEGEL] Because the guards at the Ibrahim Mosque did not intervene?

['Arafat] No one can enter this mosque without permission by the Israeli guards. How was it possible for a group—because it can hardly have been an individual—to enter there? The Israelis claim that the killer fired only 114 shots. However, the number of those killed and injured was 322. At least 1,000 shots were fired. some of the praying people were hit by several bullets. There were seven bullets in the muezzin's body alone. How can 114 shots cause so much damage?

[DER SPIEGEL] How did Rabin respond to your assertions?

['Arafat] "Investigations are under way," he said. "What kind of investigations?" I asked him and I made it clear to him that I have clear facts. Several believers were shot directly by the Israeli Army—at the portal, when they came out of the mosque....

[DER SPIEGEL] ...this sounds as if this had not been a mad deed by Jewish extremist Goldstein but a conspiracy.

['Arafat] And it continues like that. Since the massacre we have had 28 martyrs and about 300 injured. This is a constant bloodbath, committed by Israeli Army soldiers, who patrol together with armed settlers. And then Rabin just tells me: "Investigations are under way."

[DER SPIEGEL] Do you want to say that Rabin has lost control or that he is part of a conspiracy?

['Arafat] He himself should comment on that. I just present the facts; others can judge them. But I have the right to ask: Is there a secret organization in the Israeli Army in league with the armed settlers?

[DER SPIEGEL] Rabin and you probably knew what could happen. When the two of you met for the first time in President Clinton's presence before the ceremony for signing the agreement in Washington, you briefly discussed that.

['Arafat] Nonsense, we did not exchange a word at that time.

[DER SPIEGEL] Rabin said in an interview with DER SPIEGEL that you both noted that implementing the agreement would be "very difficult."

['Arafat] When the three of us were together, we were silent. Clinton asked us not to make any comments before the agreement was signed. We adhered to that. President Clinton is my witness.

[DER SPIEGEL] Nevertheless, both sides knew about the potential danger emanating from the extremists in both camps.

['Arafat] If Rabin knew it, then why did he delay the implementation of the agreement? I emphatically warned him during our subsequent meetings: If we do not make progress quickly, we will get into great difficulties. Therefore, we have to act quickly.

[DER SPIEGEL] Obviously, Rabin was not quite of that opinion.

['Arafat] There is a very mean sentence by Rabin. He said: "I will let 'Arafat sweat."

[DER SPIEGEL] It is undisputed that most Israelis are outraged and ashamed about the massacre of Hebron.

['Arafat] This would then be a very good opportunity for Rabin to put the curb on his people and to take specific steps, if he is really interested in peace. So far, he has not done anything except talk. Six months have passed since the Washington agreement, and Rabin is always just talking about the settlers' safety. Now, however, everybody realizes that the safety of the Palestinian people is in the foreground first.

[DER SPIEGEL] Why did you leave open the question of the Jewish settlements, which is perhaps the key problem for peace, at the secret negotiations in Oslo?

['Arafat] We did not exclude this topic at all; it is on our agenda.

[DER SPIEGEL] But, according to the Oslo Declaration of Principles, this issue has to be negotiated only "at the beginning of the third year of the transition period."

['Arafat] Now you listen to me: The topic "Jewish settlers" was on our agenda in Oslo, in Washington, in Davos, and in Cairo. However, the Israelis are postponing discussion on this matter and remain inflexible, while I was very flexible.

After the signing of the Cairo agreement, Peres boasted in the Knesset that he had repeatedly "defeated" 'Arafat. What is that supposed to mean? I did not react to that. Such statements show that the Israelis basically want to force us to make concessions.

[DER SPIEGEL] The Israelis claim the same thing about you.

['Arafat] They interpret our flexibility as their victory. For us flexibility means coming a bit closer to peace.

[DER SPIEGEL] How are things now supposed to continue? How can the train of peace be put back on its track?

['Arafat] This is not our responsibility. Now the cosponsors should take care of that, those who signed the treaty together with us, such as President Clinton.

[DER SPIEGEL] Rabin does not want to heed any of your demands, which exceed the formulations of the Oslo agreement. He wants neither to disarm the settlers nor to dissolve the settlements.

['Arafat] The Oslo agreement speaks only of two authorities: the Israeli Army in the territories where it is stationed and the Palestinians in Gaza and Jericho. It does not say a word about a third authority—the settlers. The Israeli Army is supposed to ensure the protection of the settlers. For what do the settlers need weapons then?

[DER SPIEGEL] After all, Jewish settlers have also been killed by Palestinians.

['Arafat] Do not forget that Hebron was not the first massacres committed against Palestinians. A massacre also took place in 1990 in the front yard of the al-'Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem.

[DER SPIEGEL] If it comes to calculating, the Israelis accuse the Arabs of the massacre in the synagogue in Istanbul, where 22 Jews were killed seven years ago.

['Arafat] Why do you say things like that? I was not responsible for that. These were extremists.

[DER SPIEGEL] Once again, how do you want to make progress now?

['Arafat] Do not ask me but Rabin, because it is his business to make progress with the process.

[DER SPIEGEL] Do you believe that the Israelis do not want peace?

['Arafat] So far, it looks as if they did not want peace. I am a pragmatist and realist, and it is the facts that count for me.

[DER SPIEGEL] After the disappointments of the past months, have you lost the courage to follow the path toward peace unfalteringly?

['Arafat] I am not joking about such things. The decision for peace is not my personal decision but that of the PLO Central Council. If I want to turn the helm around again, I have to go to the Central Council again. We are proud of our democracy; I am not a dictator.

[DER SPIEGEL] You have repeatedly said that the peace process is irreversible.

['Arafat] Yes, but it seems that the Israelis, who signed the agreement too, do not respect this decision.

[DER SPIEGEL] But what would be the alternative to the peace process—did you and Rabin not long ago reach the point where one can only take the bull by the horns and not turn back again?

['Arafat] Rabin is obviously not willing to join in. He is still waiting for me to sweat, as he says.

[DER SPIEGEL] How long can you still sweat?

['Arafat] Rabin should know how persistent I am. In 1982 he, together with Defense Minister Sharon, looked for me in vain in Beirut for three months.

[DER SPIEGEL] Will the Hebron massacre not be evidence for many that peaceful coexistence of the 1 million Palestinians and the 120,000 Jewish settlers is impossible?

['Arafat] Rabin has insisted often enough that Israel does not need the settlements, which were established for political motives....

[DER SPIEGEL] ....but he wants to keep those of the total 144 settlements in Gaza and the West Bank that are relevant for security.

['Arafat] He could evacuate the settlements held by Jewish extremists and fanatics. We will see what happens.

[DER SPIEGEL] This seems to be a path toward a solution: giving up the settlements in particularly sensitive places, such as Hebron, Gaza, and Nablus?

['Arafat] Yes, the elimination of these political settlements that are now hotbeds of danger. This would be my advice.

[DER SPIEGEL] Will Palestinian policemen protect Jewish settlers, if they are attacked?

['Arafat] This must still be negotiated in the autonomy talks, but first the settlers must be disarmed.

[DER SPIEGEL] Rabin would hardly survive this in domestic policy at the moment.

['Arafat] He could at least start with the fanatics. In any case, one of the most important points that we must discuss soon is the final status of the settlements. According to the text of the framework agreement, this should be done as soon as possible. But Rabin is delaying everything and is playing for time.

[DER SPIEGEL] Why? What could he gain by doing that?

['Arafat] One of his goals is to weaken me. Can you explain to me why else he is insulting me and boasting that he is letting me sweat?

[DER SPIEGEL] We do not understand this logic, because after you he will have to deal with the gentlemen of the more radical HAMAS.

['Arafat] You had better ask him that himself. Of course, I have my thoughts about that, but I prefer to keep them to myself.

[DER SPIEGEL] Is it not absurd to assume that 100 years of hatred and distrust between Jews and Palestinians can be overcome within a few months, by decree, so to speak?

['Arafat] What does the term "peace of the courageous" mean? That one must be ready to face all difficulties. What did De Gaulle do, what are De Klerk and Mandela doing? Where there is a will, there is a way.

[DER SPIEGEL] In Jerusalem fliers of your al-Fatah movement now call for "revenge by all means." A retaliatory massacre on Jews would probably torpedo the peace process once and for all.

['Arafat] How enormous do you think the pressure of our grass-roots is? The situation is extremely critical.

[DER SPIEGEL] Do you no longer have your young people under control and those activists who accuse you of having made too many concessions to Israel?

['Arafat] These critics have not felt any improvement of the living conditions since the signing of the agreement in Washington. On the contrary, they see that the occupation army is getting increasingly brutal. Just because of this potential of danger we should come to an agreement as quickly as possible. The Israelis must withdraw quickly. As soon as the first soldiers and administrative officials have been withdrawn from the autonomous areas, the tensions will ease automatically.

[DER SPIEGEL] Even your most loyal followers think that you are in hellish difficulties and that the radicals are on their way up.

['Arafat] Yes, we have to expect that. What is going on in the occupied territories now gives an impetus to the extremists.

[DER SPIEGEL] On both sides.

['Arafat] The worse thing is that the peace process is pushed into a corner. I myself still have several options.

[DER SPIEGEL] Who can save the peace process in the Middle East?

['Arafat] Washington together with the Israelis.

[DER SPIEGEL] Abu 'Ammar, you have always led a dangerous life, but this agreement with Israel puts you under a particularly great risk. Is it still worth the danger?

['Arafat] The basic cause is worth it. The important thing is not I but our children's future.

[DER SPIEGEL] Where is the threshold that you will not cross?

['Arafat] It will not be I who decide on this issue but the Palestinian leadership. At the moment we are discussing a new assessment of the overall situation.

[DER SPIEGEL] When will you be in Jericho, and when will your wish to pray in the al-'Aqsa Mosque be fulfilled?

['Arafat] I should have been there long ago, but now I would prefer not to commit myself to a date.

[DER SPIEGEL] This sounds like someone who has lost his illusions.

['Arafat] Are six months of waiting for the fulfillment of promises made in the agreement and then the Hebron massacre not sufficient to achieve that?

[DER SPIEGEL] Rabin tells us that in 1994 the Middle East will reach a turning point: The signs are either indicating peace or new confrontations in the long term. Do you agree with him in this respect?

['Arafat] These words mean that Rabin will not withdraw from the occupied territories. He is the one who is holding the key to peace in his hands, not me.

[DER SPIEGEL] Mr. Chairman, thank you for this interview.

Seeks 'Quick Move' From U.S.

LD0703144494 London BBC Television Network in English 0815 GMT 6 Mar 94

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, in Tunis, by David Frost, in the studio on 6 March—recorded; from the "Frost on Sunday" program]

[Text] [Frost] Do you blame the Israeli military for taking part in the massacre in Hebron?

['Arafat] It was clear [words indistinct] that this massacre cannot be done without the help and the cover of some Israeli units, who according to everybody information and it is known for everybody that the mosque in Hebron is completely under the protection and the supervision of the Israeli Army units and all its gates and around it, no, and I have the right to ask how this gang had the ability to enter this mosque with these armorments and in the same time these units open their fire against these people who were escaping from the mosque from outside and some of them—about eight have been killed and 24 have been injured in front of the mosque.

[Frost] But Mr. Chairman I know how much you believe in peace of the brave, you cannot let, you musn't let surely one madman, one madman end these talks?

['Arafat] There were not one, but between 10 and 12, and for your information the persons who were being killed inside the mosque and being injured, about 322 some of them had received more than seven bullets.

[Frost] What is the next move Mr. Chairman if talks are to start again?

['Arafat] We have to wait and see what is going in the Security Council and we are waiting for a stronger resolution, we are in need of a quick move from the [word indistinct] especially from the Clinton Administration.

[Frost] Have you spoken to President Clinton since the massacre?

['Arafat] I haven't had the ability to speak [word indistinct] but have had the opportunity to [talk with] Mr. Christopher.

[Frost] And what did he say to you?

['Arafat] He promised me that he would do all his best in the Security Council to have a stronger resolution.

[Frost] How many military observers to you think you need to see in the West Bank and in Gaza?

['Arafat] I am not asking for the moon, I am asking for something suitable and convenient.

[Frost] Do you feel that what this massacre did was also to increase the support for the extreme Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] movement and make life more difficult for the PLO?

['Arafat] They have the right to ask me—not only Hamas—everybody has the right to ask me, this is the peace [words indistinct] and I have the right ask the [word indistinct] and especially President Clinton is this the peace which I have signed in Washington?

[Frost] When do you think those peace talks will start again?

['Arafat] You can't go to the tango, and dance the tango alone, you have to ask the other sides who are still maneuvering to try to avoid the accurate and honest implementation of what had been signed and agreed upon.

[Frost] If Israel is ready to tango as well, the Americans will provide the music in Washington.

['Arafat] The music in Washington, but first of all is there a will? if there is no will there is no way, if there is a will there is a way, otherwise all of us will lose, not me personally, not me as a Palestinian people, because peace is not only a Palestinian need, it's a Palestinian need, Israeli need, Arab need, inter-Arabian need, American need, international need.

[Frost] But I mean in our conversation at Christmas, just before in December you said when I asked you if you trust Prime Minister Rabin and you said yes, do you still trust him, do you?

['Arafat] I am sorry to say I will have to wait and see how after this delay of this implementation of what is [word indistinct] upon I have to wait and see, it seems that he is following the advice of this extremist Israeli Army.

[Frost] So when do you expect to be sitting in your office in Jericho?

['Arafat] Sorry, in the past I was imagining that the other side was going to implement accurately and honestly what was agreed upon. Now I am sorry to say I cannot give you the answer for this question, sorry to say.

[Frost] Is the PLO weaker as a result of this massacre?

['Arafat] The moment is not the PLO all the people [word indistinct] have lost its credibility, not only before the massacre but after the massacre, it became clear and obvious, that this process had lost its credibility completely.

[Frost] Well this is a major, a major change from the optimistic Yasir 'Arafat of ten days ago.

['Arafat] I am a pragmatic man, I am not dealing with dreams, I am dealing with realities and fact.

[Frost] Mr. Chairman, thank you very much.

['Arafat] Thank you.

Hopes for U.S. Pressure on Israel

AU0803110594 Munich FOCUS in German 7 Mar 94 p 260

[Interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given: "We Are Cousins"]

[Text] [FOCUS] The Hebron massacre has weakened the peace process. Will it survive the crisis?

['Arafat] The peace process has been interrupted. I would like to stress that it has been interrupted and not broken off. We hope that President Clinton will save the situation.

[FOCUS] What measures do you expect Clinton to adopt?

['Arafat] Clinton should support the resolution on international presence that we submitted to the United Nations. It is included in the Declaration of Principles (DOP). The DOP should be fulfilled in the interest of our people. Clinton must exert pressure to ensure the disarmament of the Israeli extremists in the occupied territories. Finally, the Israeli Government must clarify the role of the army in the massacre.

[FOCUS] Do you believe Rabin when he says that he wants to clear up the attack?

['Arafat] I believe that Rabin will take corresponding measures if Clinton asks him to do so. Otherwise, I would be skeptical. Rabin must do everything possible to ensure the security of the Palestinian people.

[FOCUS] Thus, you are not demanding the abandonment of all settlements?

['Arafat] We are not demanding heaven on earth. We know Israel and the Israelis. We are cousins. We know them very well. There is no doubt that some settlers are fanatical. The Israeli Government must take measures against them because the fanatics want to undermine the peace process and to kill Palestinians.

[FOCUS] How do you assess the chances for peace, leaving the massacre out of consideration?

['Arafat] The truth is that the Israelis do not want to implement the results of the negotiations. Rabin stated: " 'Arafat should sweat." And then the massacre occurred.

[FOCUS] What will now happen?

['Arafat] If the peace process should be stopped, and if Israel does not ensure the security of my people, a Balkanization will take place, and the Middle East will shake.

PLO Sources Expect Israeli Delegation in Tunis

TA0703055194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 7 Mar 94

[Text] Sources in the PLO leadership have said they believe that an Israeli delegation will arrive in Tunis to meet with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat within a day or two. The sources said that the delegation will be headed by a minister close to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. The sources in the PLO leadership said that the meeting between Yasir 'Arafat and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in Cairo was positive; however, it is still too early to talk of resuming the negotiations. Moti Amir, our correspondent in Tunis, reports that the PLO leadership feels that some tentative progress has been made toward resuming the talks with Israel. For the time being, however, no date has been set for their resumption.

Consultations were held at the prime minister's bureau last night within the framework of the efforts to resume the talks with the PLO. The participants analyzed the messages that arrived from the PLO yesterday. Shlomo Raz, our political correspondent, reports that the messages were delivered via direct and indirect contacts between the Prime Minister's Office, the Foreign Ministry, and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and PLO elements in the territories and in Tunis. Among those attending yesterday's consultations were Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir, and senior IDF officers, headed by Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq.

Al-Tarifi on Israeli Moves Since Hebron Shooting

NC0703160494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1510 GMT 7 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 7 Mar (MENA)—Lawyer Jamil al-Tarifi, head of the Palestinian delegation in the Civilian Affairs Committee of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, has stressed that there is a consensus among the Palestinian people on the need to protect themselves from the Israeli practices and the Israeli settlers' oppression until the Palestinian people get their legitimate rights, including the right to self-determination.

In a statement to MENA, al-Tarifi said today that the Israeli forces have arrested 1,000 Palestinians since the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre in Hebron while announcing the release of 800 Palestinian detainees.

Al-Tarifi denounced the repressive Israeli measures, noting that the Palestinian people have been living under a security cordon imposed on them for 10 days now and that schools and shops are closed as a result of the curfew imposed on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

He said that the Palestinians could not perform Friday prayers last week in al-Aqsa Mosque, where thousands usually pray especially during the month of Ramadan, due to the arbitrary Israeli closure of al-Aqsa Mosque to all worshipers and visitors.

He added that a mood of despair and disappointment prevails among the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and even among the Palestinians of 1948 [Israeli Arabs].

He stressed that the resumption of the negotiations process with Israel should take into account the new developments, because the Israelis have always spoken about guarantees of their own security but the recent massacre shows that it is the Palestinian people who need protection.

He said that the Israeli settlers are the ones threatening the peace process, not the Palestinian organizations.

Al-Tarifi, who resides in Jerusalem, came to Cairo to meet with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, who earlier today ended a one day visit to Cairo.

Al-Yahya: 'Arafat, Negotiators To Meet in Cairo

JN0703135394 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 7 Mar 94 p 28

[By 'Awdah 'Awdah; all quotation marks as published]

[Excerpt] Major General 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya, deputy head of the Palestinian delegation and chairman of the Security Committee in the self-rule negotiations, has said that "a meeting will be held in Cairo this week between President 'Arafat and the Palestinian delegation to the self-rule negotiations to assess the most recent phase of negotiations and lay the main guidelines for a new negotiating strategy."

In an exclusive statement to AL-RA'Y in Amman one hour before departing for Cairo yesterday morning, Maj. Gen. al-Yahya added that "in view of the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre, it has been necessary to reconsider the Palestinian negotiating strategy." He said that "suspending the negotiations does not mean ending them but temporarily stopping them to conduct a comprehensive study in light of recent developments, reports by the Palestinian envoys in Paris, London, and Washington, and a possible Security Council resolution."

Maj. Gen. al-Yahya, who was commander-in-chief of the Palestine Liberation Army, added that "negotiations are the only way to achieve the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza Strip and the Jericho area, but we need new concepts."

Asked about moving the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations to Washington, al-Yahya said that "the main factor is not the venue of negotiations but the real attitude toward implementing the Declaration of Principles without any obstacles, particularly on the part of the Israeli side." He added that "moving the negotiations to Washington poses no problem for the Palestinian side. If the negotiations resume, we hope that the final results will be achieved in the shortest possible time."

Al-Yahya revealed that "the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre deferred an "urgent meeting" which the Palestinian-Israeli Security Coordination Committee was about to hold to explore the Israeli withdrawal and make arrangements for the Palestinian police entry to the Jericho area and Gaza Strip and their deployment and duties." [passage omitted]

'Abd-al-Shafi Urges PLO To Suspend Talks

TA0303194194 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 3 Mar 94 p 5

[Text] Nicosia—In his first reaction to the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre, Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, former head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, has said that this ugly and criminal act reminds one of previous and repeated massacres to which the Palestinian people have been subjected in Dayr Yasin, Kafr Qasim, the al-Aqsa Mosque, Qibya, and Nahalin.

'Abd-al-Shafi was speaking by phone with AL-QUDS from Nicosia, where he is visiting at present in response to an invitation to attend an international conference of churches after paying a visit to South Africa.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi added that a good solution cannot be reached except with the removal of Israeli settlements from the heart of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Settlements are the main obstacle to the achievement of a lasting peace in the region on the basis of UN resolutions.

'Abd-al-Shafi called on the Palestinian leadership to suspend the talks and reassess the current Palestinian situation entirely on a democratic basis. This would ensure the unity of the Palestinian position inside and outside by mobilizing all Palestinian potentials and defining the effective options available to the Palestinian people.

Qaddumi on Ties With Jordan, Syria, U.S.

NC0403202094 Nicosia FILASTIN AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 6 Mar 94 pp 22-26

[Second part of interview with Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, by Sa'id al-Gharrawi and 'Ali Husayn in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] [FILASTIN AL-THAWRAH] What is the significance of the PLO-Jordanian economic agreement that you have signed?

[Qaddumi] The economic life of the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples is a joint economic and social life. There is no way we can separate the aspects of these two peoples who have common interests in all spheres. We must strengthen these interests and create institutions capable of protecting them so that they will stand up against all the challenges that will face us in the future and that will try to devour the Palestinian economy.

The agreement with Jordan and the one with Egypt seek to strengthen the Palestinian economic infrastructure and depend on the Arab parties and international aid to

build a growing and independent Palestinian economy capable of freeing itself from Israel's grip.

[FILASTIN AL-THAWRAH] Don't you think there is a contradiction in the course of Palestinian planning between the economic appendices of the Oslo agreement and the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement?

[Qaddumi] This contradiction has not surfaced so far. We have agreed with Jordan on several economic aspects but have not reached any agreement with Israel, even though the economic appendices provide for cooperation in all spheres. We view this cooperation by our own concept, which is cooperation to free ourselves from the Israeli economy, in a basic way. This will ensure peace in the region. But if Israel wants to swallow up the Palestinian economy, peace will not be established. Israel's attempts at economic containment will fail, no matter what.

Therefore, we are against customs cooperation with Israel. They have their own customs system, which is suitable to their advanced Israeli society. We also have our own customs system. However, there can be understanding on the import of goods from abroad.

Undoubtedly, this course will protect the peace process and put it on a sound and correct path. If Israel tries to impose its will on economic matters, we will absolutely reject its measures. As I have stated, Palestine's economic life is tied to fraternal Jordan's economic life. There is no way we can ignore this fact but we must strengthen these economic ties. Our people live on the two banks and our Jordanian people are part of us. We have passed through a successful unity experiment. We cannot distinguish between a Palestinian and a Jordanian. The two people have common interests and ties that must be strengthened.

As for economic relations with Israel, I clearly say: We will not allow the Israeli finance minister to decide which goods must pay customs fees. If there is a need to change the customs system or to alter the customs tariff on a certain commodity, we will do it.

This is our stand, which is sound. No one can compel us to accept a unified customs system. In addition, the import policies are not uniform in the world. Each country has its own policy. If we take into account the low standard of living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the customs tariff imposed on imported goods cannot be similar to the customs tariff imposed in Israel. In short, Israel has its own system and we have our own system, which is considerably similar to the Jordanian customs system.

[FILASTIN AL-THAWRAH] Occasionally, it looks as if Palestinian-Jordanian relations pass through difficult periods. We have seen Jordanian statements criticizing the PLO's weak coordination with Jordan. What is the truth about these relations and what is their present status?

[Qaddumi] The slogan of coordination between Jordan and Palestine is raised by both sides but coordination has not reached the level that we or our brothers in Jordan want. The obstacles to the implementation of the agreement confirm and do not preclude the need to strengthen this coordination. This coordination must result in a broad plan of understanding between us and our brothers in Jordan. This led to the signing of the first economic agreement and then the second economic agreement, which includes many matters mentioned in the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. The second agreement covers all aspects of life—administrative, security, and economic aspects, as well as displaced people, refugees, borders, legislative affairs, and laws.

Hence, we have actually begun following the correct course for coordination and cooperation that we should have followed a long time ago.

I do not say which side is to blame. We were all busy with the peace process. When the proper time came to consolidate this coordination and cooperation, we began holding intensified meetings at the highest level (ministerial level) and drafted the terms of this coordination. The committees began to work. A few days ago, the Higher Jordanian-Palestinian Political Committee held a meeting in Amman and reached agreement on most of the tasks of the committees that we have formed and appointed.

[FILASTIN AL-THAWRAH] There has been talk about establishing a Palestinian central bank as a symbol of Palestinian sovereignty and as preparatory groundwork for building a state. But looking into the articles of the agreement with Jordan we see that the task of this bank has been given to the Jordanian Central Bank.

[Qaddumi] This is not absolutely correct. The Jordanian-Palestinian accord referred to an agreement of the PLO and Jordan to reopen the Jordanian banks that existed before Israel's occupation of the West Bank and this responsibility extended to cover the Gaza Strip. We accepted this and said that the Jordanian Central Bank will supervise these Jordanian banks that have branches in the West Bank.

There is a joint technical and fiscal committee that supervises the tasks and responsibilities of the Jordanian Central Bank. On the one hand, the Jordanian Central Bank oversees these banks and, on the other hand, there is a joint Palestinian-Jordanian technical committee that receives a full report from the central bank after frequent inspections and supervision of the aforementioned Jordanian banks. This practice will continue until a Palestinian monetary authority has been established. When such an authority is established, it will assume all the responsibilities; in other words, the functions of the Jordanian Central Bank will cease after a Palestinian monetary authority is established.

We know perfectly well that when talking about Jordan or Palestine, we do not talk about different states but of

our concern as one team for the joint interests of these two nations who live on the two banks and in Gaza.

Hence the Jordanian-Palestinian accord is the pinnacle of coordination and cooperation between the brothers in Palestine and Jordan. Then came subsequent agreement to enhance this cooperation with our brothers in Jordan.

[FILASTIN AL-THAWRAH] And what about the agreement with Egypt?

[Qaddumi] We also signed an economic agreement with Egypt to help us develop our economy inside the occupied territories. The agreement stipulates Egypt's right to open branches of its banks in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. All this is aimed at investment, transferring capitals, developing the Palestinian economy, and building its infrastructure.

[FILASTIN AL-THAWRAH] Do you believe that the U.S.-Syrian summit will have a positive impact on the Syrian-Israeli negotiating track, which could delay any progress on the Palestinian track?

[Qaddumi] I disagree with those who hold this opinion because any progress on the Palestinian track helps advance the Syrian track and vice versa. Any progress on the Syrian track helps advance the Palestinian and other Arab tracks.

We wish the best for Syria if it progresses in its negotiations with Israel, and we support sisterly Syria in its negotiating process to achieve its national rights. That is why I said at the beginning that the Syrians will not sign a deal before the Palestinians do. There was a mutual agreement at the ministerial coordination meetings that genuine progress in the negotiations has to be made on the Palestinian track because there are differences between this track and other Arab tracks. That is to say, we are first negotiating over a transition phase that we want to finish and then will move on to negotiating the final phase. This transition phase does not exist on the other Arab tracks, on which the delegations negotiate only the final phase.

So any progress on the Syrian track will serve the Palestinian track because this means that Israel will withdraw from the Golan and south Lebanon. This helps us because everyone agrees that a final solution must be reached simultaneously, and all the Arab parties should sign a comprehensive peace deal on the same day.

[FILASTIN AL-THAWRAH] Despite the coordination and agreements you mentioned, Syria continues to deliver sharp criticism against every Palestinian move toward a transitional solution that you mentioned. What is your comment?

[Qaddumi] Not only Syria criticized these moves; I was one of those who criticized them. We admit there are flaws in the Palestinian-Israeli accord and the Palestinians criticized the Cairo agreement. Regrettably, the Israelis placed one option before us. This does not mean that it was an acceptable option, but rather an option imposed on us because we want to advance this process to return our land.

What distinguishes the negotiations on the Palestinian track is that we are trying to enable our displaced people to receive their land. The point is that our people should live on their land not that we should just retake our land. The issue centers on the Palestinian refugees' return to their land; there is no such issue on the other Arab tracks. This is our basic concern and such issues and concerns do not exist on other tracks.

Therefore, we often sacrifice other issues to guarantee our nation's return to its land; afterward, the nation can undo the shackles, with which the Israeli occupation tied it.

Actually, this is the main difference between us and the Arab tracks. No matter how long the negotiations on the Arab tracks take, they do not have much effect on the Palestinian track. We want to halt the settlements and want the enemy to withdraw from every inch of our land so that the enemy will not build more settlements.

The presence of our people there puts an end to settlement. It also makes it hard for waves of settlers to come to our Palestinian land. This is because the implementation of the agreement means Israel has no right after today to build any settlement on the Palestinian territory, despite its paramilitary presence on this territory. Also, the presence of our people on their land will put us in a stronger position to prevent the building of new settlements because the Israeli objective is to absorb the Palestinian land. The Israeli extremists and the fanatic Zionists in the world, particularly in the United States, claim that the Palestinian land is a disputed territory. As for the Golan, everybody admits that it is part of Syria, and the same goes for south Lebanon, which is recognized as part of Lebanon. So we are struggling to give the Palestinian identity to this land and force an Israeli acknowledgement that this land is Palestinian and, thereafter, it would be impermissible to establish any settlements on it. This is what the Arabs must understand when talking about the transitional period, in which things get mixed up, criticisms and queries increase, and the question is often asked: Why do the Palestinians accept this or that matter? As I have stated once, we are facing tough choices and the majority of the Palestinian leadership opted for the lesser evil, particularly following the Malta summit between U.S. President George Bush and then Soviet President Gorbachev. At this summit, they agreed to bring thousands of Russian immigrants into Palestinian land. The Baghdad Arab summit studied the new situation to protect the Palestinian land from being swallowed.

[FILASTIN AL-THAWRAH] Did the Syrian leadership understand the Palestinian motives?

[Qaddumi] The details of the Palestinian position demonstrate that we have a clear-cut strategy, and the Arabs realize it. However, they cannot back what we too are

criticizing. What we have accepted is a choice imposed on us. We are struggling to gain more rights for our people so that they may have full sovereignty over their territory. The Arab brothers are trying to avoid discrepancies between the Palestinian track and the other Arab tracks. That is, they want the Syrian track to be similar to the Palestinian track. But the fact is it cannot be similar to the Palestinian track, because the facts regarding the Palestinian track are different from those of the Syrian or Lebanese tracks. We too back Syria and Lebanon when they say that the tracks are different and that a solution cannot be similar in all tracks. However, a solution must involve a comprehensive, explicit, and clear withdrawal and the removal of settlements. We are moving inch by inch on the Palestinian track to ultimately achieve these goals, but the methods we use may differ from those of the other tracks.

[FILASTIN AL-THAWRAH] You mention the question of removing the settlements, but there is no text that explicitly refers to the removal of settlements or even to a halt to building activity.

[Qaddumi] The political settlement is based on international legality; that is, "land for peace." The definition of land is that we must enjoy sovereignty over it. Thus, an Israeli settlement built on Palestinian land cannot remain. But how can it be removed? This is the question that we have to solve. When and how? In addition, the Security Council resolutions rule that these settlements are illegitimate and must be removed, and Israel must remove them because the final solution, as stipulated in the agreement, must comply with Security Council Resolution 242. This resolution calls for Israel's withdrawal from the Palestinian territory, a just solution to the question of Palestinian refugees, and the inadmissibility of seizing others' territory by force.

[FILASTIN AL-THAWRAH] Doesn't Brother Abu-al-Lutf [Qaddumi] believe that making progress on the Palestinian track, with tangible deadlocks on the other tracks, is a success for the Israeli strategy of creating a schism in the Arab front and separating the tracks?

[Qaddumi] In fact, separate negotiations with each Arab party have been going on since the Madrid conference, but the Arabs are negotiating while coordinating among themselves. From the start, the PLO has sought to achieve this Arab coordination and cooperation in the negotiations. We tried to break the ice between us and Syria and started to coordinate with it; the same is true of Lebanon. We also straightened out our relations with Egypt, which in turn started to undertake its pan-Arab duties in the best possible way. This means that inter-Arab coordination proceeded well until the Oslo agreement; the fault here lies not with the Palestinians but with U.S. President Clinton. When I and brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] met President Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus and handed him a copy of the agreement he said: We will study it, but we have some observations. We will not say that we are either for or against this agreement, but we will say that the Palestinian institutions, the PLO, and the Palestinian people are responsible for accepting or rejecting this agreement. In the meantime, we will give you some observations. Later, we were surprised to see that President Clinton insisted on the need to sign the agreement on 13 September. brother Abu-'Ammar tried to postpone the signing ceremony but it was a date imposed on us. This is what made brother Abu-'Ammar, in the end, go to Washington to sign the agreement. But the truth is that it was neither brother Abu-'Ammar's intention, nor the intention of the other brothers, to sign the agreement on that date because we were waiting for the observations promised by the brothers in Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan. The mistake of the U.S. President and his administration was that they hurried the signing on 13 September to tell the world that the United States had made an important accomplishment in the Middle East.

[FILASTIN AL-THAWRAH] Could this U.S. behavior be interpreted as a lack of interest in the facts about the region or a U.S. attempt to harm inter-Arab ties?

[Qaddumi] This interpretation cannot be adopted. In my view, the United States at the time was going through a difficult economic crisis. It was said at the time President Clinton was reluctant to make crucial decisions. Thus, a political accomplishment was needed to improve the ratings of the U.S. Administration.

[FILASTIN AL-THAWRAH] We notice a U.S. tendency not to intervene in the Palestinian-Israeli talks. Do you expect the U.S. Administration to make a ceremonial act like it did in September?

[Qaddumi] The United States is the primary sponsor of this process and cannot abandon its responsibilities to bring the views closer, promote the peace process, and put pressure on the parties concerned, particularly Israel, which shows intransigence. Without this, the peace process will not work. If the United States gives up acting as an unbiased sponsor this process will stumble. Unless real accomplishment is made on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, the peace process will stumble entirely.

[FILASTIN AL-THAWRAH] But how can we talk about an unbiased U.S. role when U.S. officials do not let any opportunity pass without emphasizing their commitment to Israel's qualitative superiority over the Arab states?

[Qaddumi] The United States always raises the claim that it is "an impartial sponsor". So it has to act in this way; that is, by making the peace process succeed in accordance with former President Bush's initiative in March 1991, which contained the principle of "land for peace," the recognition of the Palestinian people's political rights, and the implementation of Security Council Resolution 242 as a basis for a settlement. Judging by the promises it made to Israel, we knew from the start that the United States, particularly this administration, is biased. However, as time went by it started to realize

that this bias would not serve peace in the region and that it had to be more sensitive to things that serve peace.

[FILASTIN AL-THAWRAH] Can we talk about a normalization in Palestinian-Gulf relations following the visit of brother Abu-'Ammar to Saudi Arabia and his meeting with the Saudi monarch?

[Qaddumi] Brother Abu-'Ammar's visit to Saudi Arabia and the visits of other Palestinian delegations to the Gulf states earlier were not only an attempt to normalize Palestinian-Gulf ties. On the contrary, they were attempts toward full inter-Arab reconciliation. We set up and participated in the committee formed by the Arab League to achieve Arab reconciliation. Without this reconciliation, the Arab position will remain weak. There must be reconciliation among all Arab members of the Arab League and an Arab charter must be drafted that clearly defines inter-Arab ties and their future. Thus, the Palestinian delegations' visits to the Arab states or the Gulf serve Arab purposes. They seek to create an appropriate atmosphere not only to serve the peace process, but also Arab reconciliation, which Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd- al-Majid is exerting strenuous efforts to achieve.

[FILASTIN AL-THAWRAH] The Oslo agreement did not contain a clear-cut and explicit clause about the return of the displaced persons. It looked as if the PLO had abandoned a legitimate right recognized by Security Council Resolution 437, which stipulated the right of the displaced persons to unconditionally return to their lands. Doesn't this sound logical?

[Qaddumi] This is incorrect. A reference to the displaced persons of 1967 exists in the Oslo Agreement. A quadripartite Palestinian-Jordanian-Israeli-Egyptian committee must be set up during the interim period. These displaced persons number more than 760,000. As for the refugees, the agreement mentioned that negotiations must be held to discuss their problem after the end of the second year of the transitional period. Also, the refugees committee of the multilateral talks is discussing this question although Israel remains intransigent and rejects Resolution 194, which stipulated the right of the Palestinian refugees from 1948 to return to their homes or, for those who do not want to return, to be compensated. Thus, negotiations between us and Israel over the refugees have been put off for two years, but this does not mean that we are not raising this issue in all international forums, in the UN General Assembly, in international conferences, and in bilateral relations. All efforts focus on the need to get Israel to recognize in principle the Palestinians' right to return to their homes in accordance with Resolution 194.

[FILASTIN AL-THAWRAH] But, Brother Abu-al-Lutf, the recent "Cairo agreement" spoke about "residents" whose names are registered in the records of the Israeli authorities and about "visitors" of the Palestinian territory. It did not touch on the question of the displaced persons?

[Qaddumi] The Cairo agreement is, one way or another, an annex to the Oslo agreement. It talks about who should and should not enter the Palestinian territory in the coming stage. As for the displaced persons, there are clear provisions about them in the agreement. As I said, a quadripartite committee (from Palestine, Israel, Jordan, and Egypt) will be formed to define the rules for their return; there is no room for argument about this. As for the refugees, they must not return to Gaza and Jericho but to their homes in Yafo, Haifa, the Galilee, etc. In other words, they must return to the places from which they were evicted. If they want to go as visitors to the West Bank and Gaza, they have the right to, but Israel must be informed if these persons will visit their relatives for one or two months and, in such case, they would have a visitor status. As for the question of their return, they must return to the places from which they were previously evicted.

[FILASTIN AL-THAWRAH] You recently took part in a ministerial meeting of the Nonaligned Movement in Jakarta. What is your view of the movement's role and actions now that the Cold War is over, and how important is that role?

[Qaddumi] The end of the international struggle that was called "the Cold War" has brought the nonaligned countries closer together. During the international struggle between the two superpowers, some of these countries were affected by the political stands of and received economic aid from one of the sides. As a result of these conditions in some nonaligned countries, differences arose within the movement. But following the end of the third world war (the Cold War), the developed countries started to have an almost identical view of these countries because interests that led to a rapprochement with them have disappeared.

Hence, the big powers began to treat many nonaligned countries similarly. They started to feel that they were close to these countries and that their interests are identical and intertwined. The nonaligned countries began to feel the need to strengthen their solidarity in order to face the challenges presented by the developed countries. The struggle has in fact become more of an economic one than a political one. Therefore, we can say that the objective conditions are now present for the nonaligned countries to increase their cooperation on a regional basis, after which they will move toward comprehensive cooperation within the Nonaligned Movement's framework, because all these countries are in the south and in a struggle with the countries of the north to obtain technology and reduce their debts and the interest and services imposed on these debts.

As we know, all the nonaligned countries have similar conditions and stands toward the major powers. Each one of these countries produces one or two commodities that are the basis of their economy. The developed countries in the north are trying to control the price of these commodities while the price of the developed countries' industrial goods are constantly rising. This

creates an imbalance in the nonaligned countries' economic structure and makes them rally together to repel the dangers created by the developed countries' economic and trade policies.

Hence, the struggle between north and south in all branches of the economic sphere will intensify. This will double the importance of solidarity among the nonaligned countries to confront the challenges imposed by the differences between the north and south.

The Nonaligned Movement has become more important now than in the past because it affects the life of the citizen and his social and economic wellbeing, which in turn affect the political situation in these countries that are in dire need for political stability.

We have seen a number of unstable political situations that resulted from the economic imbalance and troublesome debts of these countries. From this comes the importance of cooperation among the nonaligned countries, because the developed world is exploiting them regardless of their geographical positions or political stands.

[FILASTIN AL-THAWRAH] But does not brother Abu-al-Lutf believe that the name "Nonaligned Movement" has become a relic of the past and that current conditions demand that it be changed?

[Qaddumi] There is no need to change the name. We discussed this issue at length at the movement's conferences and it was decided to keep it, that is "the Nonaligned Movement", as an international movement.

[FILASTIN AL-THAWRAH] The Palestinian-Israeli conflict entered a new phase on 13 September 1993. What is the scope of this conflict?

[Qaddumi] The tools of the conflict will be political and social, in addition to foreign pressure. It will be a race of economic development and there will be serious attempts to organize Palestinian society so that it will be capable of facing the challenges of building and developing our institutions, training qualified cadres, finding all the honest means to enable every citizen to live a dignified life, and modernizing our institutions to absorb the developed societies' technological and scientific advances.

'Ashrawi Assails Israeli Measures, PLO Leaders

TA0303155894 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 3 Mar 94 p 3

[By Da'ud Kuttab]

[Text] Jerusalem—Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi has criticized recent Israeli measures and said that they address the form not the content and are merely cosmetic steps that do not meet minimal requirements.

The former Palestinian negotiating delegation spokesperson stressed that the peace process is not an end by itself but a means for achieving a genuine and just peace. 'Ashrawi said that the horrible massacre in Hebron illustrated the Israeli position's flaw in the negotiations. That position endeavors to separate the people from the land and impose the method of functional division instead of geographic jurisdiction.

'Ashrawi called for modifying the peace process, which is dominated by Israeli priorities that seek to impose hegemony and control rather than engage in real negotiations.

Regarding the way out from the current situation, Dr. 'Ashrawi emphasized that it calls for total withdrawal from the negotiating process, but she believed that basic prerequisites had to be met before returning to the talks.

'Ashrawi listed those demands: Disarming the settlers, dismantling settlements in densely populated areas, and providing international protection for the Palestinian people.

'Ashrawi said that it has become essential to open the settlements' file. She added that the Declaration of Principles was not sacred, just as Israel has regarded its timetable not sacred.

'Ashrawi criticized the Palestinian leadership implicitly. She called for changing the negotiating approach and the Palestinian decisionmaking process. She also called on the leadership to be candid with the people and not downplay their capabilities and right to participate and question.

Fatah Leader: Israel Must Meet PLO Conditions

TA0703120394 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 4 Mar 94 pp 3, 5

[Text] Gaza—Dr. Zakariya al-Agha, the Fatah official responsible for the Gaza Strip, has said that the release of a few hundred prisoners is insufficient and is a cosmetic move aimed only at deflecting the Palestinian people's anger and the international condemnation of the Hebron massacre.

Al-Agha added that if the Israeli Government wants to implement more positive measures, it should release all the Palestinian prisoners, without exception or discrimination. It should also reassess the settlement policy, disband the settlements in the occupied territories, and disarm the settlers.

Commenting on the Israeli Government's decisions in the wake of the massacre, al-Agha said: The Israeli Government's decisions are deficient. I do not believe that they will be effective in putting an end to the danger posed by the settlers and to their conduct and aggressions. He noted that the Israeli Government must address the issue of the settlements and settlers in a fundamental rather than a superficial way.

Regarding Fatah's position and intention to resume armed activities in response to the massacre, Dr. al-Agha

said: I believe there was never a decision to stop armed activities. There was only a "truce" which the two sides were obliged to observe and respect. We now see that the Israeli side failed to abide by the truce and violated it several times. It is inconceivable for us to stand idly by in the face of these violations and remain committed to the truce.

Dr. al-Agha expressed the belief that conditions must be set for the resumption of the talks—the most important being the disarming of all the settlers. Israel must also agree to disband the settlements and evacuate them from all the occupied territories. International protection should be provided for the Palestinian people until these two conditions are met.

Dr. al-Agha noted that the current situation necessitates the drafting of new formulas for the talks. He said that the Palestinian people support the suspension of the talks until the situation is reassessed and new conditions are set. These conditions must be accepted by Israel, because the negotiating climate and the circumstances that prevailed prior to the massacre have now changed. New realities have imposed themselves on the scene and should be addressed. Among these are the settlement issue, the Palestinian people's safety, and the settlers' aggressions. Therefore, these issues must be given top priority before the resumption of the talks is considered.

The Palestinian official stressed that international protection is not a substitute for removing the settlements; it is a temporary measure until all the settlements are removed.

Commenting on the positions taken by the United States and Western countries regarding the massacre, the Palestinian official expressed the belief that these positions were good but not enough. He noted that while they condemned this criminal act, condemnation alone is not enough and words must be translated into deeds. the way to do this is to support the Palestinian people's demands, which are their natural right.

Dr. al-Agha called on Palestinian national and Islamic forces to coordinate and close ranks. He said that this stage is crucial and critical for every Palestinian and that it is the duty of all Palestinian national and Islamic forces to engage in dialogue and seek the lowest common denominator for national unity.

Fatah Members Asked Not To Attack Israeli Targets

NC0603111094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1040 GMT 6 Mar 94

[Text] Dubayy, 6 Mar (MENA)—Press reports published here today said that the PLO leadership has asked the Fatah Movement leaders inside the occupied territories not to take any military action against Israeli targets at this time.

AL-BAYAN cited Palestinian sources as saying that this request came in the wake of reports that reached the Palestinian command that some of the armed Fatah members in the occupied territories are planning with elements from Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] to stage widespread acts of revenge in retaliation for the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre.

On the other hand, the same paper cited Hamas sources in Amman, Jordan, as saying that the group has agreed not to take military action at present and limit itself to civil disobedience and popular rebellion.

The sources added that Hamas agreed to this on the conditions that it be for a limited period of time and that this agreement would come after the PLO command informed it that there is an imminent agreement with the United States to provide international protection for the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

U.S. Sources Cited on U.S. Plan To Revive Talks

JN0703163094 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Mar 94

[Text] Well-informed sources in Washington yesterday said that the U.S. Government has formulated a plan to revive the Middle East peace process and resume the Arab-Israeli negotiations within a few weeks. The entire peace process has been jeopardized by the holy Ibrahimi Mosque massacre.

The sources indicated that this plan is grounded in providing protection for the Palestinians of the occupied territories to entice the Arab sides back into the negotiations in early April.

News reports from Washington said that, with regard to protection for the Palestinians, the U.S. Government has formulated proposals on the measures that can be taken and announced in order to pacify the Palestinians of the occupied territories. The reports added that it is not unlikely that the United States will make an effort to persuade Israel to accept a reduced presence of unarmed international observers in the occupied territories as part of protection guarantees for the Palestinians in accordance with the provisions enshrined in the Declaration of Principles signed by the Palestinian and Israeli sides.

The U.S. sources asserted that the U.S. plan, which contains specific proposals, will be the focus of consultations to be held with the concerned parties within the next few days, particularly with [Israeli] Prime Minister Rabin, who is scheduled to visit the United States next week.

The sources noted that an outline of this plan was discussed by senior officials of the U.S. State Department and a PLO delegation headed by brother Dr. Nabil Sha'th during the meetings they held recently.

Dr. Nabil Sha'th met with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher yesterday. He also met with the U.S. team assigned the task of following up on the Middle East peace talks.

The sources pointed out that it is not unlikely that the consultations held in this regard will be continued with the concerned parties during a tour of the region by Dennis Ross in the second half of March. The sources went on to say that Christopher himself might undertake this mission if he finds that this is warranted to ensure the reactivation of the peace process and bring it back on track as soon as possible.

Israeli Compensation 'Does Not Go Far Enough'

NC0703205994 Paris AFP in English 2035 GMT 7 Mar 94

[Text] Tunis, March 7 (AFP)—Israel's decision to compensate victims of the Hebron massacre is an admission of official complicity in the killings and does not go far enough, the Palestinian news agency WAFA said Monday [7 March].

"We are not demanding compensation, but effective international protection," the official news agency said.

The offer was "an admission of complicity" on the part of Israeli officials in the February 25 massacre, in which a Jewish settler gunned down dozens of Arab worshippers in a mosque, the agency said.

However, the PLO did not reject the compensation outright.

Israeli officials said Monday the victims of the Hebron mosque massacre or their relatives would receive up to 70,000 dollars in compensation.

The military administration would make the payments based on a sliding scale worked out by the Finance Ministry, starting at 8,500 dollars for a lightly wounded bachelor.

Relatives of the 30 Palestinians killed, according to the army's toll, would receive the same amount as survivors who were seriously hurt in the attack.

"The financial compensation...cannot settle the matter," WAFA said, adding that money "can never, no matter how large the amount, wipe away the blood, heal the wounds or conceal the tragedy."

PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat returned to the PLO's Tunis headquarters from Cairo Monday, following talks with Egyptian officials and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's political advisor Jacques Neriya.

Israeli diplomats in Cairo said Neria presented proposals aimed at clearing the way for resuming talks on implementing the September 13 accord on Palestinian self-rule.

The PLO suspended the talks after the Hebron massacre.

Palestinian sources in Tunis said 'Arafat was due to call a continuous session of his main Fatah faction to discuss progress made in the PLO's drive to secure international protection for the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

The PLO has also demanded the disarming of Jewish settlers and the dismantling of certain settlements.

'Arafat said Monday that negotiations could only resume once the UN Security Council had passed a resolution stipulating international protection for the Palestinians and the disarming of settlers.

PLF Leader on Hebron Massacre, Reaction

JN0403173794 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 4 Mar 94 p 19

[Interview with Muhammad 'Abbas, secretary general of the Palestine Liberation Front, by Ahmad 'Abd-al-Majid, in Baghdad; date not given]

[Excerpts] ['Abd-al-Majid] You were deeply saddened by pictures of the holy Ibrahimi Mosque massacre you saw on television, and you stayed at home for two days, refusing to receive anyone. Is sorrow sufficient? Can a revolutionary stand idle, doing nothing, while his people are being killed before his eyes?

['Abbas] Revolutionaries are full of emotions. I believe that it is normal to experience emotions first, before other values and reactions, including retaliation. Consequently, it is natural for any human being to become angry over such a massacre when he sees his people being brutally killed while they are performing their prayers. This affects us as human beings. [passage omitted]

The normal state of affairs during the stage of conflict is that we should expect losses, and the fall of martyrs. However, what saddens us in the face of such a massacre is the current political formulas, the stands that conflict with our real principles, and the current miserable Arab situation. Great sadness is a major tool for a consequent action. The men who were martyred, the children who were killed, and the widows who cried deserve balanced measures that will alleviate their suffering and prove that our determination is still strong to pursue struggle to terminate occupation and to achieve independence.

['Abd-al-Majid] You said consequent action. What is the nature of this action? Will you resort to another option other than the option of a political solution?

['Abbas] Struggle is an integral and indivisible whole. However, any action necessitates a reaction, especially when you see your people being slaughtered. You must then look for an appropriate action. We have not relinquished armed struggle. As an organization, we still believe that armed struggle is a major tool to attain our people's rights in Palestine. Developments are escalating, and they are all related to what has taken place. We have great hope that God will grant us success and

help us wipe away the tears of the widows and console the children who have lost their fathers and brothers.

['Abd-al-Majid] Can our sadness console the victims?

['Abbas] Sadness is not condolence, it is a human expression. The holy Ibrahimi Mosque massacre makes us sad. The condolence in such a national cause is to make our people confident that armed struggle is still continuing, that the objectives for which martyrs fell and for which our people were exposed to such a massacre will not be forgotten, and that our people's blood will not melt away uselessly. The martyrs' blood must be a torch, granting the revolution further strength and lighting the road toward our goals.

['Abd-al-Majid] The way you deal with the national Palestinian rights is to some extent similar to that of Hamas. Do you have contacts with this movement?

['Abbas] As an organization, we have carried out armed struggle for more than a quarter of a century in a continuous manner that has left its imprint in the national, Arab, and international arenas. We have never been negligent in this field. Our vision has always been clear and it will remain so. Hamas and other organizations have similar ideas. In one way or another, we have contacts with the Palestinian forces that work within the national framework, regardless of their political stands. The closer their stands become to ours, the closer we become to these Palestinian organizations.

We view Hamas with special appreciation, and we have contacts with it. I say contacts and not an alliance. These contacts might be developed. This depends on how close our political stands become in the future regarding struggle in our homeland.

['Abd-al-Majid] But do not you see that there is a contradiction between armed struggle and political action within the PLO framework?

['Abbas] This is an integration, not a contradiction. We are represented in the PLO and the PLO Executive Committee. We have developed relations with factions and forces that are outside the PLO framework. We also have relations with factions that left the PLO or that have adopted a certain stand toward the PLO leadership such as the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. Our concept of integration is based on our reading of the PLO's current situation. In our opinion, the PLO still constitutes the moral entity of the people. In other words, it is the state of the Palestinians. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-Majid] Following the holy Ibrahimi Mosque massacre, U.S. President Bill Clinton called on the parties to the settlement to resume negotiations in Washington. In your opinion, why this hasty invitation?

['Abbas] We should speak about the U.S. role, taking into consideration that America is the legitimate father of the current political settlement. In brief, we can say that the settlement is a U.S. settlement. We are aware of the changes and circumstances that have contributed to drawing the features of the stage that produced the so-called peace plan. Based on this, the United States must be very concerned about the success of its Middle Eastern plan, which is represented by the establishment of a regional Middle East complex in which Israel will be the center of gravity, because it has fateful ties with the United States. In light of the repercussions of the massacre, the U.S. President's invitation came as a quick reaction aimed at protecting whatever he can still protect of his programs in the region.

['Abd-al-Majid] Do you have any advice for the PLO leadership?

['Abbas] Everyday carries new evidence of the blind and erroneous political course—its uselessness, the extent of the harm it has inflicted on our people and cause, and the losses which could have been averted if the PLO had redressed its course, especially since there are no signs or indications regarding substantive Israeli concessions. There were huge national losses, and the Israeli and American demands are pushing the PLO toward making still further concessions. In addition to this, repressive and oppressive measures are still continuing, and they were crowned by the Hebron massacre. The only advice I have to the PLO leadership is to leave, unhesitatingly, this quagmire that it has led our people into, before the catastrophe becomes complete. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-Majid] The reason behind your relinquishment of your seat in the PLO Executive Committee is still unknown, why?

['Abbas] My depa: ture of the PLO Executive Committee was linked to my reading of the situation; the Gulf war and the PLO's political program paved the way for what has followed. It was my choice not to stay with the leadership dominating the PLO. As an expression of our commitment to the PLO, we nominated another comrade to replace me. [passage omitted]

Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] is a different man than the one I used to know. He expresses aspirations and concerns differently from how he used to express then in the past. He speaks in a language that is not the traditional language of his revolutionary conversation with us. He uses the politicians' language. Despite all these differences, we are still concerned about our relationship with brother Abu-'Ammar, which is based on frankness and sincerity.

['Abd-al-Majid] How do you view your other half; namely, Jordan—people and government?

['Abbas] Regardless of the details, we believe that Jordan and Palestine are an integral whole, and that relations between the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples go far beyond relations between any two peoples in the region. Our relations are very interrelated and affect each other greatly.

DFLP Claims Responsibility for Gush Qatif Attack

JN0703175794 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1530 GMT 7 Mar 94

[Text] Damascus, 7 Mar (SANA)—The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] has announced that Iyad Salah, a young man from the front's Red Star Battalions, was martyred after he stabbed two settlers in the Gush Qatif settlement in the occupied Gaza Strip.

In a statement distributed here today, a DFLP spokesman said struggler Salah was martyred after a settler managed to open fire on the group that attacked the two Israeli settlers. Other members of the group successfully withdrew.

The statement added that the occupation forces were deployed in the area and that they set up roadblocks and began campaigns in search of the other group members.

Habash Blames Israel, U.S., 'Arafat for Hebron

JN0703142994 Amman NIDA' AL-WATAN in Arabic 3 Mar 94 p 12

[Interview with George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, by unidentified reporter—place and date not given]

[Text] [NIDA' AL-WATAN] How do you assess what took place at the Ibrahimi Mosque [in Hebron] and the reactions to the massacre. What do you expect in this regard?

[Habash] What happened at the Ibrahimi Mosque is an odious and bloody massacre that severely shocked the national, Arab, and international levels. It is a massacre that shocked the human conscience everywhere.

Whoever knows the history, nature, and mentality of the Zionist entity and the Zionist movement was not been surprised by this massacre. The Zionist history is rife with massacres. This bloody massacre has shattered any illusions about the nature of this fascist, racist, bloody entity. Most explicitly, I hold the Zionist entity's government and Rabin personally responsible for what was committed against our innocent and defenseless people at the Ibrahimi Mosque and the subsequent premeditated killing of the sons of our people who rose to express their indignation throughout the occupied homeland. As Rabin talks about peace, his troops and settlers continue their cold-blooded killing of innocent worshipers and our defenseless masses. It is ironic to claim that the perpetrator of the massacre was an insane settler. In fact, the massacre is the logical outcome of the policy of settlement and arming the herds of settlers from head to toe. It is the logical outcome of having an army addicted to killing and slaughtering.

The United States also bears direct responsibility for this and other massacres, for it continues to protect the Zionist entity, cover its crimes, and does its utmost to spare the Zionist entity any harm, and even condemnation. This is most visible through its stands at the UN Security Council, where the U.S. Administration is desperately fighting to circumvent the horrible massacre and its indications and dimensions. The settlements spread over our territory are an absolute violation of all UN resolutions. Why are these resolutions not implemented immediately? Why doesn't the U.S. Administration show the same enthusiasm to enforce the will of the international community, that it shows when imposing its will and racism against the peoples of Iraq, Libya, Somalia, and other countries? There is no explanation for that except acceptance of what the Zionists are committing against our people to break their will and resistance and to peddle destructive schemes.

In the same vein, I do not absolve the spineless Palestinian leadership from responsibility for the tragedies and massacres of our people. That leadership has abandoned all national rights and recognized the Zionist entity's right to exist on our soil and agreed in the Oslo-Cairo accords to keep the settlements and settlers implanted among the sons of our people. However, this leadership knows well these settlements' nature and expansionist and bloody objectives. He who allows the occupation and its troops and settlers to stay on our national soil bears direct responsibility for the occupation authorities' acts of killing, repression, and terrorism against our resisting people.

The Ibrahimi Mosque massacre has strongly and glaringly exposed the falsehood of all Zionist-U.S.-'Arafatist demagoguery about the alleged peace. What is being offered is capitulation that maintains occupation and settlements and approves of the acts of repression and killing against our people.

The crime is terrible and appalling. Therefore, we should be extremely vigilant to deny the U.S. and Zionist attempts to circumvent and contain this massacre through cosmetic measures any chances of success. 'Arafat and the Oslo team are striking a deceptive tone to absorb and contain the overwhelming and decisive popular reactions. The masses are well aware of the illusions and deceptive campaign that the spineless leadership has promoted after the signing of the Oslo and Cairo agreement. The masses are also aware of this leadership's deceptive talk about peace, security, prosperity, and sovereignty.

Therefore, in view of this massacre, we explicitly state that our masses can be protected and their security maintained only through the departure of the occupation troops, the complete removal of settlements from our land, and recognition of our people's right to repatriation and statehood, including Jerusalem. This means that the humiliating agreements, which fundamentally contravene our national principles and rights, should be overturned.

We are demanding an urgent popular and political movement pressing for the following:

—Overturning the humiliating agreements which contravene our national rights.

—Halting negotiations completely.

—Removing the settlements from our land completely.

—Providing international protection for our masses in the occupied homeland immediately in preparation for the Zionist army's full withdrawal.

—After the failure of the U.S. course which started in Madrid and the subsequent agreements, leading up to the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre, we are demanding a return to the international option and the UN resolutions approving our people's national, inalienable rights: The rights to repatriation, self-determination, and statehood, including Jerusalem, the capital of Palestine. This should be an alternative to the U.S. course.

We hope that the massacre will constitute a turning point in the life of our Palestinian masses, the national, democratic, and Islamic political forces, and on the pan-Arab level to collectively confront the destructive Zionist-imperialist scheme and to maintain the option of struggle in order to attain our national and pan-Arab objectives.

Statement Issued on Ivanov-'Arafat Talks

LD0203231694 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 2200 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Press statement issued by the Russian press office in Tunis on 1 March]

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin decided to send his personal envoy to carry out consultations with the leadership of the PLO within the existing framework of Russian-Palestinian cooperation to resolve issues involving a Middle East settlement.

President Yasir 'Arafat received a personal letter from President Boris Yeltsin in which he expressed Russia's strong intentions to help on all fronts to reach comprehensive peace and security in the Middle East.

Yasir 'Arafat expressed deep appreciation for the support that the Russian president was giving Palestinian people during these difficult times. He pointed out Russia's important role in the Middle East.

The meeting with the Palestinian leader focused on steps aimed at preserving the peace process in the light of the current tension in the occupied territories after the Hebron tragedy.

The Russian side expressed support for the Palestinian position on the necessity of securing an international presence in the occupied territories that would become an additional guarantee against the possible recurrence of such provocative acts.

President 'Arafat received with appreciation the Russian decision to provide practical aid to establish Palestinian self-rule. With the importance of Russian-Palestinian cooperation in the peace process in mind, an agreement was reached to continue close contacts.

Algeria

Zeroual Expected To Make Cabinet 'Mini-Reshuffle'

NC0403161994 Cairo MENA in English 1530 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Algiers, March 4 (MENA)—President Lamine Zeroual is expected to make a mini-reshuffle in his government during the coming days within efforts exerted to surmount the current crisis, MENA correspondent here learned.

The reshuffle will involve appointing of a new prime minister, the correspondent said, adding that Reshid Ben Haddi, [name as received] a retired major-general, is the nominated for this post.

Former rector of Algiers University Mufd Zakria [name as received] is expected to be minister of education to succeed Ahmed Jebbar, who is nominated to take up a prominent post at the UNESCO.

107 Prisoners Released From Detention Center

LD0703193694 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabi 1900 GMT 7 Mar 94

[Text] We have learned from officials in charge of the detention center of In Amguel [southern Algeria] that 107 detainees were released today from that center. This operation falls within the framework of the measures of appeasement decided by the higher state bodies.

Egypt

Musa Reiterates Need for Palestinian Protection

JN0703150594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1048 GMT 7 Mar 94

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, in Cairo, by radio correspondents Sa'id Mu'addi and Sha'ul Menashe, in the studio—live]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Your Excellency Minister 'Amr Musa, good afternoon.

[Musa] You are welcome.

[Mu'addi] Your Excellency the Minister, intensive contacts and consultations are being held under Egyptian sponsorship, with the participation of the parties concerned, in order to resume the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. Are there positive signs following the meeting between Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat?

[Musa] The objective is not only to resume negotiations. The objective is to tackle the problems that resulted from the crime committed in the Ibrahimi Mosque. This crime, committed by the murderer Barukh Goldstein, cannot go unnoticed. There must be measures to prevent similar crimes and ban the aggressions carried out by settlers, extremists, and terrorists against the Palestinians. This is an important and major issue.

It is inconceivable that matters should proceed normally in the wake of this crime without securing protection for the Palestinians and without ensuring Palestinian security. This is an important and basic issue. Negotiations can proceed normally when agreement is reached in this regard and when such measures are taken.

[Menashe] Your Excellency the Minister, apart from the existing problem between the PLO and Israel, is the atmosphere surrounding other Arab parties to the negotiations opportune to resume talks?

[Musa] The crime committed in Hebron by the terrorist settler and murderer Goldstein has enraged all Arabs and the whole world. Thus, the atmosphere is now replete with wrath regarding this crime while we await the measures that will be taken to protect the Palestinians in the occupied territories from people similar to this terrorist murderer.

[Mu'addi] Your Excellency the Minister, the Israeli leadership, with all its party affiliations, denounced the criminal act that occurred in the holy Ibrahimi Mosque. Despite much sorrow and grief, the peace process should continue. Naturally, Egypt, which is a pioneer in this regard, will redouble its efforts to resume these negotiations. What role is Egypt currently playing to promote the peace process?

[Musa] The Israeli Government has indeed condemned this incident. What is important is not only to condemn or show resentment, but also to take measures that will prevent similar incidents. In other words, the settlers who carry arms should be prevented from entering the Arab territories. It is now very clear that the settlements are a serious issue and cannot go unnoticed, and that people should not be left free to kill the Palestinian Arabs in the manner of the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre. Measures should be taken.

Naturally, we in Egypt are convinced that peace can only be achieved through negotiations. The peace process began, and negotiations were about to achieve their objectives. We believe that negotiations are a positive process. However, measures should be taken on the ground to protect the Palestinian people. Do not forget that the Palestinians are living in territories that are occupied and that are not Israeli territories. Consequently, the settlers residing in the settlements should be encircled somehow in order to protect the Palestinians. This is because there is not just the issue of Israeli security but also the issue of Palestinian security on equal footing. This issue is now clear to the masses, to public opinion, and to all of us. It has also now clear that it is the Palestinian's security, and not only the Israeli's security, that is threatened. We want a just and balanced solution. We do not want any trivial thing meant only to say that we signed and negotiated. Hence, in order for

negotiations to resume, which is important to us all, measures should be taken on the ground to protect the Palestinian people.

[Menashe] Mr. Minister, can we have a hint as to what took place yesterday in the meeting between Yasir 'Arafat, President Mubarak, and your excellency? Strictly speaking, are we proceeding toward the aspired objective despite the obstacles?

[Musa] I cannot give you a specific answer because the measures that are being taken in the occupied territories to protect the Palestinian people are a major issue. Everything depends on this issue.

[Mu'addi] Your Excellency the Minister, can we expect Foreign Minister Peres' arrival in Cairo to meet with Yasir 'Arafat, or will contacts be held to hold a meeting between His Excellency President 'Arafat and Prime Minister Rabin?

[Musa] Nothing has been decided yet on either meeting.

[Mu'addi] Your Excellency Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, thank you very much.

[Musa] Thank you.

Security Termed Essential for Peace

NC0703094094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0726 GMT 7 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 7 Mar (MENA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH demands that security be provided for the Palestinian people as a first step toward ending the occupation because this is the only way to bring about a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace.

In an editorial today, the paper says that the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre revealed the serious dimensions of the Middle East conflict and proved that working for a just and comprehensive peace involving all parties concerned means providing security for all parties. It does not mean securing the existence of one party at the expense of the other.

AL-JUMHURIYAH emphasizes that real peace requires ending all racist trends and discrediting all claims about the right to use force to expand into other people's lands and that peace means coexistence and cooperation without discrimination. Since the Palestinian people are disarmed under the occupation, the settlers living on lands they will never be entitled to under any circumstances must be disarmed, the paper stresses.

AL-JUMHURIYAH affirms that Egypt will continue to back the Palestinian people with its firm, solid, and effective stances because this is the destiny it accepts willingly.

Students Plan March to Israel Embassy

NC0703194394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 7 Mar 94

[Text] University students in Egypt have issued a statement calling for Egyptian volunteers to be sent to occupied Palestine to engage in jihad against the Zionists.

Dr. Badr-al-Din Ghazi, head of the Cairo University Teachers Association, announced the formation of an university committee for the boycott of the Zionist entity. The committee will press for the severing of ties between Egypt and the Zionist entity and the expulsion of the Zionist ambassador in Cairo.

Islamic student societies and the Cairo University Teachers Association have announced plans to stage a massive march tomorrow [8 March] following a prayer service for the souls of the victims of the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre. The march will proceed to the Zionist embassy in Cairo to express outrage at the Hebron massacre.

Militant Islamic Group Claims Responsibility for Attacks

NC0803084294 Paris AFP in English 0059 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, March 8 (AFP)—A militant Islamic group, al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah, late Monday claimed responsibility for renewed train attacks in southern Egypt and warned they would continue until the end of the week to avenge the Hebron massacre.

Gunmen, suspected by the interior ministry of being Islamic fundamentalists, meanwhile shot dead a plain-clothes policeman in Asyut province in southern Egypt just hours after a bomb exploded outside a hotel in the area, causing no casualties.

Al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah, which seeks to replace the secular government of President Husni Mubarak with an Islamic state, urged the population to avoid "tourist sites, public transportation and everything connected with banks, which practice usury."

A communique delivered to international press agencies here said the group had carried out three attacks in southern Egypt early Monday that according to the latest interior ministry toll wounded 12 Egyptians.

It said the operation, the third it has claimed against trains travelling in southern Egypt in the past two weeks, had targeted "tourist trains" and had been conducted "to avenge the martyrs" of Hebron.

An estimated 30 Palestinians were gunned down last Friday by an Israeli settler as they prayed at a mosque in the West Bank town of Hebron.

Al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah said the train attacks would "continue until the end of the month of Ramadan," the holy month of dawn-to-dusk fasting scheduled to end this weekend.

While the movement has directed previous operations against tourist facilities as part of its campaign to cripple the government, two of the trains attacked with automatic weapons early Monday carried only second and third class carriages and were being used by Egyptians of modest means.

Eleven people, six of them tourists, were hurt in a bomb attack on February 23 on a train between Cairo and Luxor. Four days earlier, two tourists and two Egyptians were wounded when gunmen fired on a train south of Asyut. Al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah claimed responsibility for both operations.

The policeman attacked Monday died instantly after gunmen shot him in the village of Durunkah. The assailants made good their escape and the interior ministry was unable to indicate how many were involved.

Editorial Criticizes Security Council's 'Slackness'

NC0703095594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0730 GMT 7 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 7 Mar (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR criticizes the UN Security Council, which still refuses to issue a clear, forthright resolution condemning the Israeli Government for the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre in which hundreds were killed and wounded by an armed Jewish extremist. Later, more were killed and wounded by the Israeli Army during demonstrations to protest the massacre.

In an editorial today, the newspaper says that if some states defend the UN Security Council's slackness regarding Bosnia-Herzegovina and the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre using the excuse that certain powers obstruct any decisive resolution, the world cannot stand by when it sees this important authority become too weak to play the role entrusted to it by the UN Charter.

AL-AKHBAR calls for referring the matter to the UN General Assembly to take the necessary measures to restore the UN Security Council's esteem.

Envoy to Israel Comments on Syrian Role in Peace Process

NC0803074994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2215 GMT 7 Mar 94

[Text] Damascus, 7 Mar (MENA)—Muhammad Basyuni, Egypt's ambassador to Israel, has affirmed that Syria is the key to comprehensive peace, without it, there can be no comprehensive peace in the region.

This came in an interview with the Egyptian ambassador published in one of the Israeli Arab newspapers of which some issues were distributed in Damascus by the Arab Israeli delegation currently visiting Damascus.

Ambassador Basyuni clarified that despite the difficulty in the Syrian-Israeli peace track, it has clear characteristics. He noted that a comprehensive peace between Israel and Syria cannot be reached without full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

He affirmed that Syria cannot accept anything less than full withdrawal in return for comprehensive peace.

He pointed out that peace is the essential demand of all people in the region without exception. He expects that 1994 will be the year of peace in which agreements on the Declaration of Principles will be signed on all peace tracks.

As regards reports on terrorism in Egypt, the Egyptian ambassador affirmed in his interview that what is being reported about this topic is exaggerated. Violence and terrorism are an international phenomenon from which many progressive and developed countries are suffering. It is not restricted to Egypt alone.

Somali President, Musa Comment on Agreement

NC0603124794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1120 GMT 6 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 6 Mar (MENA)—Interim Somali President Ali Mahdi Mohamed has expressed his appreciation to President Mubarak for meeting with the leaders of the Somali groups today. In a statement to reporters today, he said that the leaders of the Somali groups thanked President Mubarak, the Egyptian Government, and the fraternal Egyptian people for their strenuous efforts toward finding a solution to the Somali problem. He voiced his hope that these efforts will succeed in finding a solution to the Somali problem. Mohamed said that the meetings of the 12 Somali groups in Cairo reached an agreement on a statement that includes a complete concept on which all the Somali groups agreed.

Responding to a question on General Mohamed Farah Aidid's view of this statement, Mohamed said that Aidid did not take part in the meetings and that a delegation will be sent to him with the statement to study it.

Replying to a question on reports that a provisional government will be formed at the end of March and whether the declaration will speed up its formation, Mohamed said: We hope that this will happen.

Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that the meetings of the 12 Somali groups in Cairo and their invitations to the three other factions affirm that the situation in Somalia is entering a new stage that calls for reconciliation among the majority. He noted that Egypt sent an invitation to all the Somali factions, including General Aidid. He stressed that Egypt does not differentiate between Somali groups. He pointed out that it is important for Somalia to enter into a new stage of

building on the basis of the agreement and the participation of all groups in the presidential council or consultative council. He noted that every leader has his standing according to the Addis Ababa resolutions on national reconciliation in Somalia. He said that President Husni Mubarak will send a message to Ethiopian leader Meles Zenawi in his capacity as the chairman entrusted with following up on the Somali problem. He said that the message will deal with the latest developments. Egypt will also brief other African countries on the Somali agreement. He expressed his hope that these developments will lead to genuine moves to resolve the Somali problem.

'Fundamentalist' Interviewed on 'Military Coup'

BR0803112194 Copenhagen POLITIKEN in Danish 26 Feb 94 p 2

[Interview with Egyptian fundamentalist Tal'at Fu'ad Qassim by Hisham Mubarak in Copenhagen; date not given; first three paragraphs are POLITIKEN introduction]

[Text] As reported in POLITIKEN on Tuesday, the Egyptian Tal'at Fu'ad Qassim, who has been granted political asylum in Denmark, has issued threats against foreign tourists and investments in Egypt.

The Egyptian lawyer and author Hisham Mubarak has been to Denmark to interview Tal'at Fu'ad Qassim. Hisham Mubarak is writing a book about the Islamic fundamentalists and their international network.

The following is an extract from the interview with Tal'at Fu'ad Qassim.

[Mubarak] What are the Islamic Groups now concentrating their efforts on?

[Qassim] We are taking a three-pronged approach. First, we are aiming at a military coup. On this front things are going very well. The state has absolutely no information about it, and the security police are being kept busy by a few small-scale actions which some of the Groups' younger members have carried out in the provinces.

Secondly, the population as a whole has to be mobilized. In order to be able to carry out an Islamic revolution, the whole population must be mobilized. It is very important to prevent foreign intervention or, failing that, to delay foreign intervention for at least 18 days, in the view of our military people. We have organized many demonstrations and one of the purposes of these was to train the Groups' members to mobilize people, and we are experts in this field.

Thirdly, special missions. These are of great significance, in that they involve the murder of some of the people in government posts. (...) This organizational unit (responsible for special missions—POLITIKEN editorial note) has gained experience through carrying out a number of missions, it is now ready, and it will play a part in the implementation of the plan (to overthrow the regime—POLITIKEN editorial note). This unit is active and it will not stop the death missions as long as circumstances make these activities necessary. It is a misunderstanding to think that the arrests of some members of the Groups or an absence of action over a period of time are a sign of weakness, since this is in accordance with a plan adopted for this organizational unit's activity.

Preparations for a Military Coup

The state knows nothing about the military organizational unit which is responsible for preparing a military coup, nor does it know anything about the organizational unit responsible for special missions. If some of its members are arrested, the only information these members have is about their own cell, and that is no help to the security police at all. As for the other cells, there is no connection between them at all.

[Mubarak] The former members of the military or those who stood accused in the Jihad case (court case in connection with the murder of al-Sadat—POLITIKEN editorial note) were rank and file soldiers and officers who had no power. If we assume that what you say is correct, this does not pose a great threat. What are your views?

[Qassim] I disagree with you. It is the young officers who hold the real power, since soldiers do not take their orders from the generals, and we believe in the importance of lower-ranking officers; history has shown this. They are the most motivated people.

Tourists Spread AIDS

[Mubarak] Why have the Islamic Groups carried out terrorist acts against tourism?

[Qassim] There is more than one reason for the policy of attacking tourism. Firstly, tourism is a major source of income which is incompatible with Islam and which goes to fill the state coffers. This means that the regime receives money which helps to keep it in power, while we think that the regime should be removed. So we have decided to strike this area in order to remove this source of income to the government, so that the regime loses its power. (...)

Secondly, tourism in its present form is an abominable thing because it spreads prostitution and AIDS via female Jewish tourists. It is a vile means of spreading all forms of immorality. Tourism is also used to collect information on the Islamic Groups for foreign intelligence services. Therefore tourism, in our eyes, is an abominable thing which should be changed. These are the reasons for the tourist sector being hit in accordance with the Groups' strategy of damaging the regime.

[Mubarak] But the acts of violence which you have committed were also intended to kill, since it was tourists who were killed. What connection is there between the tourists and the government?

[Qassim] Some of the tourists are insured against being killed. That is why our slogan is tourism, not tourists. We have done a lot of planning and preparation because we wish to avoid killing tourists. So we took a number of measures. We issued various declarations, warning tourists against coming to Egypt where their lives would be in danger. We declared that anyone coming to Egypt was risking their life, because the tourist sector is targeted, and we sent declarations to all the competent authorities, in which they were urged not to admit tourists for the reasons mentioned. In the light of this, those who come anyway deserve whatever happens to them.

Attack on Investments

[Mubarak] You have issued a statement in which it appears that investments are shortly to become a target for the Groups' mission. When will you carry out violent acts against investments?

[Qassim] The time when investments will be attacked depends on a number of factors. One of these is the Egyptian security police's treatment of us. We will assess how the struggle between the state and ourselves is progressing. If the state shows increasing violence towards us, we will attack investments in revenge and in order to prevent such violence.

[Mubarak] Can you not here give what you see as valid reasons, as you can in the case of the tourist sector. What reasons are there for attacking investments?

[Qassim] Our aim is to destroy all state institutions with the least possible bloodshed. These things are very simple. One of our military cells in the Groups has the capacity to attack investments in Egypt, when the time is ripe.

Sudan

Opposition Plans To 'Topple' al-Bashir Regime Detailed

NC0503095394 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 23 Feb 94 pp 1, 14

[By Hanadi Salman]

[Text] Sudanese opposition sources have revealed that there is a plan to topple Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir's regime. It primarily presupposes the establishment of safe areas in southern Sudan, the intervention of foreign forces, and the imposition of an air, economic, oil, and military embargo on Khartoum in preparation for an entry by the opposition forces, which are currently deployed in one of the neighboring countries, to overpower the regime. But the opposition "al-Ummah" Party has doubts about this plan's success.

In a telephone interview with AL-SAFIR, opposition sources in London said that forces belonging to one of the "northern" opposition parties are now deployed all along Sudan's borders with one of its neighboring countries, which recently became embroiled in a dispute with Khartoum after accusing the al-Bashir government of harboring and supporting opposition groups from that country.

The sources, which declined to reveal their identity, added that a meeting of the Sudanese opposition parties in the British House of Lords late last week sponsored by Baroness Caroline Cox had called on the international community to establish "safe areas" in southern Sudan and to impose an air, economic, military, and oil embargo on Khartoum that would weaken al-Bashir's government enough to allow the opposition to enter the capital and remove the regime.

The sources explained that the safe areas to be established would not only include southern areas (that is the provinces of Bahr al-Ghazal, Upper Nile, and Equatoria) but would be extended to include what is known as the disputed "ravaged areas," on which there is no agreement yet as to whether they are "southern" or "northern". Some of these include parts of the provinces of Darfur, Kordofan (Jabal al-Nuba), and al-Anqasta. This means reducing the borders of the northern area to a minimum.

The sources went on to say that a simultaneous declaration of an embargo on Khartoum would tighten the noose around the al-Bashir government, together with the closure of the borders with Libya and Chad and even Egypt, the closure of Port Sudan's harbor, and the isolation of the present government. This would allow the opposition forces inside the country to act, lead to an army revolt, and pave the way for the entry of the opposition forces from outside.

The sources admitted that the stage that will follow this remains vague because the opposition parties have not yet agreed on the type of regime or the fate of the south, in addition to the absence of any party or figure capable of rallying the masses or possessing a specific program for taking over authority and managing the country in a transitional period.

But deputy leader of al-Ummah Party Nasir-al-Din al-Mahdi has doubts about the likelihood of getting a resolution from the UN Security Council setting up safe areas and imposing an embargo on Khartoum. He noted that he senses that the British Government is hesistant about this matter.

Al-Mahdi said that the London meeting was held at the House of Lords at the invitation of the House to the opposition to come and explain its stands on the current political situation in Khartoum, the right to self-determination in the south, the conditions of refugees and displaced persons, and other Sudanese issues.

Speaking to AL-SAFIR from London, al-Mahdi said that "the original aim of the meeting was to urge a halt to the war in the south, provide the necessary relief and support for the refugees and displaced persons, notify Khartoum

of the gravity of its repressive practices, and deter it by appealing to the international community."

Al-Mahdi believes that the meeting's call for "setting up safe corridors in the war-stricken area, imposing an arms ban on the Sudanese Army and an oil embargo and economic sanctions on Sudan, defining a military no-fly zone, appointing a resident assistant commissioner for human rights in Khartoum, and suspending Sudan's membership in international and regional organizations" was more an appeal than a call.

He admitted that the issue of the right to self-determination in the south has created controversy and that the opposition has failed to reach agreement on it. "No one can say he is authorized to raise this issue, not even the southern parties, who do not represent all southerners, particularly since most of them do not live in the south," he said.

Al-Mahdi expects "an escalation of opposition activity inside Sudan by the Sudanese people as a prologue to deposing the government soon after its failure becomes clear. He believes it is likely that "the regime's international isolation will increase through the imposition of more economic sanctions."

He said that the campaign the Sudanese Army is currently conducting against the rebels—a campaign that Khartoum denies—"will fail because, at best, government troops will control the main roads but not the cities." He believes that this failure will create a state of discontent in the Army's ranks and might lead to a mutiny. He is convinced that "the internal situation will soon explode."

Al-Mahdi admitted that the opposition abroad is weak and "ineffective," particularly because of the differences among the various sectors. "We are trying to draw the attention of the opposition abroad to the need to focus on major issues, like deposing the regime and drawing up a program for the post-al-Bashir era," he said. He added: "But this opposition might not be able to do much. The Sudanese are not too wrong when they call it the 'hotel opposition.'"

He added: "This opposition will continue to be a hotel one if its internal differences persist. The Sudanese people do not expect much of it. They even call on us to stay abroad."

The London meeting included Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, the leader of the Democratic Unionist Party; 'Umar Nur-al-Da'im, the secretary general of the al-Ummah party, which is led by Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi; 'Izz-al-Din 'Ali 'Amir, a leading cadre in the Communist Party representatives of the two rebel wings; Amin Makki Madani, the chairman of the Sudanese Human Rights Organization; plus 35 Sudanese figures.

The conferees differed on the future of the south. Representatives of the John Garang-led Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA] said: "Here we are divided into northerners and southerners on the issue of self-determination."

Sources who participated in the meeting say that although most of the northern parties may not object in principle to granting self-determination for the southerners, they cannot risk losing the northerners' support for them by admitting that.

The only party that boycotted the London meeting was the opposition National Organization for the Independent Sudanese Forces. This organization released a statement in London saying that "the great interest shown by some Western governments, organizations, and media in the war and famine in southern Sudan raises many fears and misgivings in a large sector of the Sudanese people." The statement summarizes these fears, saying that "although tragic, the situation in southern Sudan does not differ from more tragic situations in numerous regions in Africa and other parts of the world that have not received similar attention, not to mention that these situations have met with procrastination and negligence by the West."

The statement adds: "This concern coincides with the proposed Western political plans regarding the problem of the south and with a call for international intervention to set up so-called safe havens in some parts of Sudan. This smacks of a plan to partition Sudan and separate the south."

The state went on: "There is a clear link between the change in the balance of power between the warring sides and the timing of the Western governments and organizations raising the issue of famine and human rights. This reflects the existence of political motives behind this campaign and the West's bias toward a certain party."

Western countries, led by the United States and Britain, indeed began a political and propaganda campaign in recent months focusing on the situation in southern Sudan "which has not changed since 1983." The campaign has also focused on the need to set up safe havens in the south on the pretext of insuring the delivery of relief aid to the population.

Recent reports from southern Sudan indicate that government forces have advanced in the main areas of the south.

The statement disputes the right of the parties taking part in the London meeting to "speak in the name of the Sudanese people" and also denies that these parties' viewpoint is representative .

Replying to a question about the Sudanese opposition's request for an embargo on their country, which the Sudanese people would suffer from, the opposition sources which took part in the London meeting said

"The Sudanese nation already suffers from the current situation; an embargo would not increase their suffering."

The sources rejected any resemblance between the current Iraqi situation and the future situation of Sudan if an embargo is imposed on it. The sources said that the al-Bashir government "has begun to crumble and an embargo will only expedite its departure." They expected the embargo not to last more than five months, after which the opposition forces would be able to enter Khartoum.

The sources disclosed that the original plan aimed to set up safe havens in the south and proclaim the formation of a provisional government in Juba with the objective of toppling the al-Bashir government and advancing north after an international embargo had been imposed on Khartoum.

The sources explained that the recent disagreement between Khartoum and a neighboring country allowed for the revision of the plan and for deploying opposition forces in these countries [plural noun as received] and along the borders with Sudan.

Commenting on Egypt's stance on these possibilities, the sources said that Cairo will not object to any resolution that might be passed by the international community against Sudan, noting the Egyptian Government's recent stand that it will not intervene in any decision.

The sources ruled out the possibility of Cairo objecting to the deployment of international and "American" forces in southern Sudan.

Last week, AL-SAFIR published a report that confirmed that the Egyptian Foreign Ministry is opposed to Washington's efforts to set up safe havens in the south, noting that it is this Egyptian opposition that is blocking such a move.

The sources, however, regarded the Egyptian Foreign Ministry "as being not concerned in Sudanese affairs." The sources stressed that "Sudan has always been regarded in Cairo as the responsibility of the Egyptian Intelligence Agency, not the Foreign Ministry."

As far as self-determination in the south is concerned, the sources said that the rebels' call for a referendum on separation is an ill-intentioned call because it is not in the interests of either the northern or southern parties.

The sources said that Garang's wing does not support breaking away completely from the north (because of its close ties with the north and its leftist tendencies and because its ties with Washington are not solid). Meanwhile, the dissident wing, led by Riak Mashar, supports that demand "only for the sake of one-upsmanship."

The sources added that the tribal system in the south does not allow it to break away "because this would trigger bloody battles among the tribes, which would fight for control." Added to this is the absence of an administrative structure or a system that could help the south build a "state" or separate entity.

The sources noted that breaking away would force the southern authorities to seek the help of "foreign experts" to build their state. These "experts" would probably be from the north, particularly since the states surrounding the south lack suitable cadres, and in addition are mostly French-speaking. Arabic is the only common language of the southerners, who speak different dialects.

Moreover, the sources touched on the issue of oil in the south. The discovery of large amounts of oil in the south has strengthened some sectors' demand to break away. The southerners will need workers and experts to work in that field. Although it is possible to seek the help of foreign experts, the workers will all be from the south. This means an internal migration that could fan tribal disputes. Some tribes will not let rivals stay and work in their zone.

The sources referred also to the issue of the south's "borders" if it breaks away—an issue that is yet to be settled. Some demand that these borders be extended to the south of Khartoum and accordingly encompass ravaged areas, something the northerners will not allow.

The sources wondered about the fate of the one million refugees who have been living in the north for years. These have changed their traditions and lifestyle. "Will they return to the south if it breaks away and will they find a place in areas totally different now from those they grew up in?" the sources asked.

The sources noted two additional reasons—both foreign—that preclude breaking away. The first has to do with "the OAU charter," which views the post-colonial borders in Africa as final and unchangeable under any circumstances. The second has to do with Sudan's neighboring states, most of whom house many tribes. A breakaway would set a precedent encouraging these tribes to fight among themselves and demand the right to self-determination.

Official in 'Legitimate Comamand' of Army Interviewed

PM0403152794 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 4 Mar 94 p 7

[Interview with Lieutenant General 'Abd-al-Rahman Sa'id, "no. two in the Legitimate Command of the Sudanese Army organization," by Nizar Daw-al-Na'im in London; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Daw-al-Na'im] What means do you have at your disposal to topple the regime? And do you prefer one means to another?

[Sa'id] As military men and a military organization we plan our work, and we intend to win the battle for which we have planned by every means. We are trying to apply all available means to achieve victory. We are bound by

what was mentioned in our first statement on ways of toppling the regime and by what was mentioned in the Democratic National Grouping's charter in this connection. The charter stressed the need to topple the regime by all available means, including civilian and military means. Our job, as the grouping's military arm, is the latter. In Sudan's history civilian means were used twice: once to topple the regime of Lt. Gen. Ibrahim 'Abbud (1964) and (former President Ja'far) Numayri (1985). The Army intervened after the masses' participation. That scenario will continue.

The statement we addressed to the Sudanese forces inside the country as the Legitimate Command of the Sudanese Army said that we should work together to topple the regime. It means that, since we addressed individuals carrying arms, these arms should be used to topple the regime. Of course, it would be better if the aim can be achieved through peaceful means. However, individuals who are carrying arms can use these arms.

We do not expect our battle with the regime to be easy. And we will use all our strength from both inside and outside the Army, and we will use the people's factions in the capital and the other cities to settle the final battle. We have our own military plans, but I cannot talk about them. However, I can say that we are about to topple the regime by all the means available to us.

[Daw-al-Na'im] Are you coordinating in this connection with the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLM]?

[Sa'id] We discussed this coordination in the first meeting with the movement's leader, Colonel John Garang, and his aides, which was held in November 1990. There was a point which we had to clarify, namely that we are the legitimate commanders of the Armed Forces. And as you know, the movement is in a state of war with the Armed Forces, whose commanders are supposed to be us. Here comes the contradiction, because we do not want the Armed Forces to be defeated by the movement while we are seeking to topple the regime in Khartoum. This position was clear, and the movement's leaders appreciated it. This leads us to stress that we are not betraying the Armed Forces, revealing their plans, or talking to the brothers in the SPLM about the points of weakness or strength in the Army. We only discuss with them coordination for the sake of toppling the regime, each side using its own method. And we cannot stop them from continuing the ongoing war, nor can they drag us into their war against the regime. [passage omitted]

[Daw-al-Na'im] It is often said that any military attempt to restore democracy in Sudan could turn into a civil war. Is that what you want? And what guarantees are there to prevent that happening?

[Sa'id] There is no possibility of civil war breaking out in the event of a confrontation with the regime's forces. Against whom is that civil war supposed to be fought. The regime arms the militias to help it survive. It is the regime which is calling for a war of that kind. But we are aware of that and do not believe that a civil war is going to break out if we confront the regime, even if this confrontation is military. [passage omitted]

[Daw-al-Na'im] In your first statement you urged Sudanese Army personnel to rebel against the regime, but that did not happen....

[Sa'id] We urged officers and soldiers to support legitimacy, not to rebel. Because they did rebel when they joined President 'Umar al-Bashir, or when he deceived them. We urged them to return to legitimacy, not to rebel again. As for the scale of their response to our appeal, it cannot be measured. However, we can talk about the reaction to this appeal. This reaction was reflected in the strict surveillance measures applied by the regime against officers and soldiers. For example, it prevented them from leaving their units, tightened security control over them, even inside their barracks and homes, and prevented nonserving officers entering the barracks to finalize some matters, as used to happen before. And large-scale changes were made in the military leaderships in the capital, with these being replaced by cadres from the National Islamic Front. And officers whose loyalty was deemed suspect were moved to the war zone in the south, and a large number were dismissed. All this clarifies the scale of the response, which did not crystallize clearly because the regime, with all the capabilities at its disposal, managed to confront this move. This is why I believe that the appeal we addressed encountered a great response and can be exploited at any time. The fact that we have not seen anything tangible does not necessarily mean there is no response.

[Daw-al-Na'im] The information available to the media says that no serving officers have joined you, and that all members of the organization are nonserving officers.

[Sa'id] A small number of serving officers have joined us. And I cannot say that there is a large number of them. The reason for that is the extensive measures taken by the government.

[Daw-al-Na'im] A special court is currently looking into the case of the bombings which the government says were part of a plan to undermine stability and overthrow the regime. What is your link with that operation?

[Sa'id] We did not have any involvement in the so-called bombing case. I do not deny that we know some of the defendants in the case. And of course, the regime was bound to associate our relationship with these defendants and the case in order to prove our involvement. By virtue of my 25-year experience in the Engineer Corps I cannot plan a naive operation like that, because it is difficult to obtain explosives from outside the country and there is a lack of them inside. [passage omitted]

[Daw-al-Na'im] Have you carried out any military actions against the regime over the past four years?

[Sa'id] We have not carried out any action that satisfies our aspiration. We have planned actions, but they have not been carried out for one reason or another. We know that four years is a long time and causes boredom for those who would participate in actions of that kind. But the circumstances are not helpful. We are discussing the possibility of taking action with our own capabilities. International conditions and the opposition's circumstances are responsible for this situation. We have not had a base from which to act, or sufficient aid. And I believe that all these obstacles will soon disappear. And I am optimistic that the regime will be toppled by an armed action, and that all aid will arrive soon.

[Daw-al-Na'im] A disagreement erupted inside your organization recently. What is the nature of the differences, and what is the scale of the split?

[Sa'id] The nature of military political action requires a degree of flexibility—which sometimes leads to the intervention of some parties, hence the disagreements. Like other political forces, we have not been spared that disease. However, thank God, our brothers in the military establishment who differed with us joined the Legitimate Command willingly, and they have offered a great deal. So the discipline exists, regardless of our differences. Military discipline exists and we respect one another. The disagreement needed to be tacked and, thank God, has been contained. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Acknowledges Bombing SPLA Positions

AB0503114994 Dakar PANA in English 1105 GMT 5 Mar 94

[Text] Kampala, 5 Mar (PANA)—Sudanese Foreign Minister Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih, said in Kampala on Saturday [5 March] that bombing raids being carried out by the Sudanese Airforce on position held by the rebel Sudanese Peoples Liberation Army (SPLA), is aimed at forcing them to the negotiating table. "Much as the Sudan favours a cease-fire and a complete cessation of hostilities, previous experiences have shown that treating the issue of the cease-fire separately is a futile exercise", the foreign minister told a press conference in Kampala.

Abu-Salih who arrived in Uganda from Kenya on Friday, with a message from President 'Umar al-Bashir to Preesident Yoweri Museveni said, Khartoum believes that fighting is not a solution to war. "We want a just and genuine peace in the Sudan", he said. He claimed that much of the fighting in the southern Sudan is betwen the rebel factions themselves and tribes hostile to the rebels.

The foreign minister who returns back to Kenya Saturday said Sudan fully supports peace initiatives by the four heads of state in the Inter-Governmental Authority on Desertification and Development (IGADD), the objectives of which is to reach a negotiated peaceful settlement of the civil war in the southern Sudan.

"These countries sharing the same borders with the Sudan, being fully knowladgable of the root causes of the problem, are better placed to help bring about the desired peaceful settlement", he said. He added however, that proper negotiations should be consucted by his government and the rebels to reach a peaceful settlement.

The Khartoum [as received] in 1992 launched the latest massive military operation against the southern rebels led by the SPLA which accused the central governmment of trying to Islamise the entire country.

Two Ministers Killed in Traffic Accident 7 Mar

AB0803090794 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Mar 94

[Summary] Construction Minister Andrew Malwal Leek of Nile River State, and Mrs. (Shahwar Jazuli), the minister of instruction and guidance of the Northern State, were killed in a traffic accident today near Shendi. They were travelling in the course of performing their duties.

GCC Oil Ministers Begin Meeting in Jeddah

LD0503212394 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 2040 GMT 5 Mar 94

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 5 Mar—The oil ministers of the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] states have begun the meetings of their 19th session here tonight under the chairmanship of Hisham Nazir, the Saudi minister for petroleum and mineral resources.

At the beginning of the one-day meeting, the Saudi minister for petroleum and mineral resources gave a speech in which he stressed the importance of cooperation among GCC members in order to achieve their interests.

Minister Nazir expressed the hope that the meeting would produce decisions in order to solve some "outstanding" matters.

During the meeting the ministers are due to hear a report from Sa'id al-Shanfari, the Omani minister for petroleum and minerals, on the results of his contacts with non-OPEC oil-producing countries to urge them to respond to the initiative of the GCC leaders regarding their countries' readiness to reduce their oil production on condition that the non-OPEC oil-producing countries took a similar step. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Qatari Media Given 'Friendly Reproach' on Iraqi Coverage

JN0403163094 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 22 Feb p 1

[Editorial: "A Friendly Reproach"]

[Text] When sisterly Qatar stood with us during the ordeal of the brutal Iraqi invasion, this was not merely aimed at extending help in a time of need. When Qatari forces had the honor to confront the Iraqi aggression, this was no coincidence but was part of the principled and honorable position of sisterly Qatar.

In this, its singular position toward its oppressed brother during the ordeal of the invasion of Kuwait, Qatar clearly expressed its stand in a manner that showed noble and pure fraternity and deep and strong relations. Qatar offered all it could to support justice. Toward that objective, Qatar extended everything it had in order to defeat the aggression and restore Kuwaiti rights. Kuwait's ordeal demonstrated the status of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] and reflected the closeness of relations among its states.

Now, three years after the liberation of Kuwait and the restoration of legitimacy, much of the credit for which goes to the GCC states, and with our national celebrations, which are also celebrations for all those who contributed to the liberation of our country, it is difficult to see sisterly Qatar opening its windows to the aggressor so that the aggressor can spread its poisons and use these windows as a means to improve its image and win the sympathy of others.

If the brothers in Qatar are hurt by the suffering of the Iraqi people, our hurt in Kuwait is no less than theirs. Our sufferings increase with the continuation of this regime because we knew that regime and lived with it for seven months. We also know that a human being is worthless according to its hateful Ba'thist ideology.

This regime is still practicing its oppression despite all the international sanctions imposed on it after its sinful aggression. Instead of receiving Qatar's help against the oppressor, as we used to expect from Qatar, we were surprised to see the sinful aggressor appear in the brothers' media, as if he is mocking us, our solidarity, the pure blood that had been spilled, and the international resolutions that have been adopted.

Our love for Qatar and appreciation of its principled positions toward us allow us to reproach it in the spirit of family—a family that we are both part of and of which we are proud to be a member. This reproach is a friendly one that expresses our hope that the brothers will reconsider their positions toward the one who has harmed and suppressed his own people, as well as our people, and continues to do so.

It is a friendly reproach from a wounded heart that can bear no more injuries.

Yemen

Military 'Failed' To Secure Troop Withdrawal

JN0703144494 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1345 GMT 7 Mar 94

[Text] Sanaa, 7 Mar (INA)—The Yemeni joint military committee has failed to persuade the commanders of some Yemeni brigades to return to their old positions outside al-Bayda' Governorate in accordance with the authorization the committee obtained from the Yemeni president and Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid to end the military tensions between northern and southern Yemeni troops.

The newspaper AL-MUSTAQBAL, mouthpiece of the Yemeni Socialist Party, today reported that the committee, which also includes Jordanian and Omani military officers, had to leave al-Bayda' Governorate without ending the tension there.

The troops, which the committee failed to return to their original positions, were brought into al-Bayda' Governorate from various Yemeni towns following the military friction that has been going on since 20 February between southern units loyal to the Yemeni Socialist Party and northern units. They include the 56th Armored Brigade and two other brigades, as well as units from the Central Security Forces and a Republican Guard battalion.

The paper notes that the military committee's failure in al-Bayda' Governorate heralds other failures in other areas.

Dialogue Committee Views Implementation of Accord

JN0803074794 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 7 Mar 94

[Text] Within the framework of the political forces' efforts to practically implement the document of pledge and accord signed in Amman on 10 Ramadan [20 February], the Political Forces' Dialogue Committee met at the Prime Ministry at noon today under the chairmanship of brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, member of the Presidential Council.

The meeting was devoted to discussing the role of the Political Forces' Dialogue Committee in following and supervising the implementation of all aspects of the document in the light of the topics listed on the Committee's agenda. Following deliberations, the Dialogue Committee (?asked) the committees it formed to expedite the drafting of the required concepts in implementation of the relevant decisions. These committees are: The Security Committee, the Political and Military Committee, the Information Committee, and the committee in charge of drawing up a working program to follow up and supervise the implementation of the accord. These committees will present their plans to the Political Forces' Dialogue Committee meeting, which will be held the day after tomorrow, Wednesday.

Salih Orders Ramadan Release of 1,400 Prisoners

JN0803075494 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 7 Mar 94

[Text] A responsible source at the public prosecution has told the Yemeni News Agency, SABA', that brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, has ordered the release of 1,400 male and female prisoners in the capital and the governorates of Aden, Ta'izz, Hadramaut, al-Hudaydah, Ibb, Dhamar, Hajjah, al-Mahwit, and al-Bayda', who have served more than half of their prison terms for crimes they committed and whose good conduct has been confirmed. This step is taken on the occasion of the blessed month of Ramadan.

The brother chairman of the Presidential Council, chairman of the higher judiciary council, has also instructed the competent quarters to pay those who could not pay the blood money or fines decided by court against them and to overlook the terms to which they were sentenced in administrative and other lawsuits.

Official Denies Exporting 'Terrorists' to Egypt

NC0403215494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2115 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 4 Mar (MENA)—Yemeni Interior Minister Brigadier General Yahya al-Mutawakkil denied accusations that his country is one of the countries exporting terrorism and terrorists to Egypt.

In an interview with AL-AHRAM to be published tomorrow, he said that Yemen is targeted by terrorism and terrorists, especially the al-Jihad Organization and the Arab Afghans who have been discovered by the investigations to be behind a number of recent assassinations in Yemen.

He added that the brain and financier of terrorism in Yemen is Saudi businessman Usamah Bin-Ladin, who is wanted for trial in Yemen.

The Yemeni interior minister stressed his country's readiness to deport any Egyptian in Yemeni territory who is suspected by Egyptian authorities of being involved in terrorist incidents. He said that he will be the first to defend Egypt's security and stability.

Brig. Gen al-Mutawakkil revealed that Yemen prevented those who came from Afghanistan from using its territories as a crossing point, stressing that Yemen will never be a source of concern for Egypt.

Regarding the internal situation in Yemen, he said that he expects the military skirmishes in Abyan and Mudiyah to stop next week and the forces involved in the fighting to withdraw to their original positions.

Arab League Delegation Arrives in Aden

EA0703200394 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 7 Mar 94

[Excerpt] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, the deputy chairman of the Presidential Council, in Aden last night received a delegation from the Arab League comprising brothers Staff Major General Muhammad Sa'id Bayraqdar, the assistant secretary general of the Arab League and director of its Department of Military Affairs; Ambassador Mahyub, secretary general [as heard], director of the General Department for Arab Affairs; and Dr. Amin (?Fu'adi), official in charge of the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula at the Arab League.

During the meeting, the Arab League delegation delivered to brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, the deputy chairman of the Presidential Council, a letter from his brother, Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, the Arab League secretary general, concerning relations between our country and the Arab League, the situation in Yemen, and the Arab League's efforts on behalf of Yemen.

At the beginning of the meeting, brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, welcomed the Arab League delegation and briefed it on developments affecting the national arena

and on the dangerous military imbroglios it had experienced, particularly following the signing of the document of pledge and accord. He briefed them on the efforts made to contain and bring to an end those imbroglios. He also stressed the need to bring about conditions conducive to the implementation of the document of pledge and accord inasmuch as this was a document of national consensus and a new social charter to rectify the march towards unity and the construction of the modern state.

Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid expressed his appreciation for the attention the Arab League had paid to the state of affairs in our country. He also expressed gratitude for the efforts being made by Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, which are an extension of the efforts being made by friendly and fraternal states to help our country overcome the present crisis and create conditions conducive towards restoring stability on the road that leads towards the building of a modern Yemen.

The Arab League delegation expressed the league's concern over the developments affecting the Yemeni arena, its keenness that the crisis be resolved, and that an end be put to the imbroglios which brought it about. The delegation stressed that the league was prepared to do everything it could to participate in helping our country to resolve the problems it was undergoing. This would enable it to strengthen security and stability for itself and the peoples of the region thus preserving the unity of the people and their national and democratic options in building their modern democratic state. [passage omitted]

Sanaa Radio Reports on Libyan Official's Visit

Message Delivered to Salih

JN0703143994 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Mar 94

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman, this morning received brother Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi, member of the Revolution Command Council and inspector general in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. The Libyan envoy conveyed to the brother chairman a message from his brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan 1 September revolution. The message deals with the brotherly and militant relations between the two countries, as well as issues and developments of interest to the Arab nation. The message also deals with the current developments in our country and the efforts being exerted by brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and other brothers in Libya to bring views closer and to heal the rift in the Yemeni ranks in order to maintain the march of unity, democracy, and stability in Yemen. The message stresses the Libyan brothers' eagerness to support all efforts and do whatever is possible to contain the current political crisis in our country, to halt its regrettable repercussions, and to stand by our people to surmount the current challenges and maintain Yemeni unity, which is a major pan-Arab gain and a model for realizing the Arab masses' dreams of Arab unity.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed their brotherly bilateral relations, the developments of the situation in our country in light of the efforts being exerted by the military committee to halt the regrettable military developments, and the efforts being exerted to begin implementation of the accord document. Those efforts are designed to end the crisis and enable the state's constitutional institutions to resume their responsibilities so that they can move collectively to implement the contents of the document in a manner that ensures its success, achieves the national aspirations for a modern Yemeni state, and entrenches unity and democracy in our country.

During the meeting, the Presidential Council chairman expressed thanks and appreciation for the efforts, the sincere fraternal sentiments, and the outstanding pan-Arab eagerness of his brother Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and other brothers in Libya to help their brothers in Yemen to maintain Yemeni unity. He noted that the brothers in Libya had a pioneering and positive role in enhancing the march of unity from the outset and in supporting all the steps and efforts toward unity that led to the establishment of the Republic of Yemeni and the restoration of Yemeni unity on 22 May 1990. He indicated that Yemeni unity is a pan-Arab accomplishment and an Arab enterprise of interest to all advocates of unity and good in the Arab homeland. He added that maintaining this unity is a pan-Arab as well as a Yemeni responsibility. He emphasized that whatever the challenges and difficulties, our Yemeni people will maintain their unity in order to fulfill their aspirations for progress.

The Presidential Council chairman asked Col. Mustafa al-Kharrubi to convey an oral message to his brother Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. He wished the fraternal Libyan people continued prosperity.

The meeting was attended by brother 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Anisi, Yemeni deputy prime minister; Ahmad Ba-al-Khayl, Libyan under secretary for foreign liaison and international cooperation; and brother Sartawi Yusuf, charge d'affaires of the Libyan brotherhood bureau in Sanaa.

Al-Bid, Envoy Meet

JN0703220994 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 7 Mar 94

[Text] Presidential Council Vice Chairman 'Ali Salim al-Bid received in Aden this afternoon brother Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi, member of the Revolution Command Council and inspector general of in the fraternal Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

Al-Kharrubi relayed to the brother vice president a message from his brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi,

leader of the Libyan 1 September revolution, on fraternal ties as well as Yemeni and Arab issues and developments.

The message emphasized the support of fraternal Libyans, headed by the leader of the 1 September Libyan revolution, for the efforts currently under way to eliminate tension and halt military escalation. The Libyans reaffirmed their support for our Yemeni people in the course of their efforts to meet the challenges and tackle the dangers posed to the construction and development endeavor in a manner that safeguards unity and democracy and enhances security and stability throughout Yemen.

Presidential Council Vice Chairman 'Ali Salim al-Bid expressed his thanks and appreciation for the efforts made by fraternal Libyans, led by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, in this regard, and also for the concern they have expressed for ensuring stability in our country to help create propitious circumstances and conditions for the implementation of the provisions enshrined in the accord document signed in Amman, given that it is a national consensus document that lays the groundwork for the achievement of the Yemeni people's national and pan-Arab objectives.

The Presidential Council vice chairman reviewed with the Libyan envoy aspects of the fraternal ties binding our country to the Libyan Jamahiriyah, underscoring the importance of promoting and enhancing these ties to promote the common interests of the two fraternal peoples and realize their pan-Arab aspirations.

The vice president and the Libyan envoy also reviewed current developments in light of the efforts under way to create a propitious climate and circumstances for implementing the accord document.

At the end of their meeting, Presidential Council Vice Chairman 'Ali Salim al-Bid asked his brother Mustafa al-Kharrubi to relay his greetings to his brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, his wishes of continued good health and happiness to him, and his wishes for continued enhancement and furtherance of the fraternal ties between our two countries and peoples.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister Muhammad Haydarah Masdus; Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, secretary of the Political Department at the Secretariat of the Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee; and Muhammad Salih Qutaysh, acting under secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Aden.

Party Official Demands Salih's Resignation

JN0503103894 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 22 Feb 94 p 23

[Interview with Dr. Sultan al-Shu'aybi, assistant secretary general of the Yemeni Liberation Front Party, by Fathi al-Daw in Asmara—date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Daw] Let us start with the latest in the crisis, the document signed by the General People's Congress [GPC] and the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP]. Do you think this document can end the crisis?

[Al-Shu'aybi] In my opinion, documents are not important. What is important is the practical implementation of what was agreed or will be agreed. Once this happens, an objective solution can begin. But where do we stand vis-a-vis documents and treaties? It is well known that the unity agreement itself, according to which the merger took place, has not yet been implemented. This led to the crisis.

[Al-Daw] Do you mean past experience shows documents and agreements are not respected?

[Al-Shu'aybi] Not absolutely. I can be more specific and say between the YSP and the GPC.

[Al-Daw] You said practical implementation can lead to a solution. How can this document be activated to lead to the aspired solution?

[Al-Shu'aybi] The matter simply lies in the credibility of the political leadership. Real credibility leads to the aspired solution.

[Al-Daw] During the crisis, several problems emerged once again, such as federation, confederation, and division. What is your opinion?

[Al-Shu'aybi] First of all, we should admit that the Yemeni reality has transcended the partitioning process. Even the politicians have realized that unity is not a decision signed by leaders, because unity is rooted deep in Yemeni society, both north and south. Any careless decision to divide Yemen will certainly lead to a devastating civil war that might spill out of Yemen in to the entire region. Any other proposals should be presented to the masses in a popular referendum. In any case, temporary solutions lead nowhere and the crisis will continue to persist.

[Al-Daw] But the unity itself after more than three years now appears to be unity between two parties. Many issues are still unresolved. The unity has not embodied the people's feelings.

[Al-Shu'aybi] I think unity within the framework of the Yemeni people is solid and firmly established. Even the past division was a political one between the authority in the north and the authority in the south. Both are primarily responsible for the consecration of division. Once there is a real national authority, unity will have great prospects.

[Al-Daw] Within the framework of unionist popular feelings, do you not believe that the cultural discrepancy between north and south has adversely affected the process of unity?

[Al-Shu'aybi] I do not think so. The issue of unity is, north or south, not a subject of discussion among individuals. Even during the partition, the Yemeni citizen rejected division and said he was a Yemeni, and not a southern or northern Yemeni.

[Al-Daw] We have learned you sent a memorandum to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih shortly before the signing of the latest document asking him to resign. Do you still insist on this?

[Al-Shu'aybi] Nothing has changed. The recent document and its implementation are put to the test and all he can do is resign. This may end the crisis.

[Al-Daw] What prompted you to make this appeal?

[Al-Shu'aybi] As a politician observing the Yemeni situation after unity, which is over three years old now, I have not sensed any credibility in what he said or did. All he did was throwing dust in the eyes. Democracy continued to be blocked by his personal mood. It has not reflected on the Yemeni situation politically or economically, or even on the unity.

[Al-Daw] Accordingly, you consider the president the source of the crisis?

[Al-Shu'aybi] If not so, he is largely blamed for it. The leadership should be able to overcome crises. Why is the Yemeni crisis continuing? I admit that there are good and active elements in the GPC, but they have been shackled by the leadership bureaucracy. They were not given the opportunity to do as much as they could.

[Al-Daw] Do you think Yemen is living a real democracy?

[Al-Shu'aybi] Very regrettably, no.

[Al-Daw] Then, how did you dare to present this memo?

[Al-Shu'aybi] I have personally tasted the bitterness of political conflicts for about 29 years. I have been to prison and experienced the pains of displacement and deprivation. Nothing is left for me except speaking the truth, whether the rulers liked it or not. Nobody can question my patriotism. This is enough.

[Al-Daw] 'Ali Salim al-Bid said Sanaa became an arsenal of weapons. Do you believe this?

[Al-Shu'aybi] Certainly. This was one of the most important points in the YSP's memorandum. Sanaa has indeed become an arsenal of weapons. Al-Bid's description was right. Removing the manifestations of these arms from the capital and the other major cities is a pressing need.

[Al-Daw] Do you believe the GPC is behind this?

[Al-Shu'aybi] Generally speaking, no. This is because, as I said, there are good elements who are against these practices. However, there is a group of people who activate such matters. I wish the GPC was an organized and effective political party that keeps up with developments. Regrettably, however, the GPC is run by leaders whose only interest is scoring political points.

[Al-Daw] Financial corruption was one of the GPC's charges against the YSP. Do you share that opinion?

[Al-Shu'aybi] It is quite the opposite. Financial and administrative corruption exists in former northern Yemen. I say so, despite our past differences with the brothers in southern Yemen, who used to have a Marxist orientation. The economic situation is a heavy burden for Yemen. Once security is achieved safety will be brought about. But I am afraid that as a result of the financial corruption, Yemen might turn into an Arab Nigeria or an Arab Brazil, so to speak. This is so because the wild beasts in power are primarily interested in looting the Yemeni people's resources.

[Al-Daw] Let us discuss the political violence that prevailed in Yemen in the wake of its unity. What is your explanation of all these practices?

[Al-Shu'aybi] First of all, we are against political violence. Within the framework of the Liberation Front, we experienced much political violence in the past. We tasted its woes with the YSP, but we were not dragged behind this violence. When Yemeni unity was achieved, we supported this unity with our thought, views, and actions because this was our duty to perform. We also ignored grudges to champion the homeland's interest. I should say here that senior personalities and leaders support political violence. I believe the YSP has known claws, but it abandoned this policy and tried to follow a democratic way. Regrettably, however, the YSP has faced this kind of dirty conflict.

[Al-Daw] Does Yemen's tribal structure have any role in creating the conflict?

[Al-Shu'aybi] I do not think so. As I said, some parties failed to deal with the political conflict through democratic dialogue, so they resorted to arms. Everyone wants to impose his viewpoint in his way. These parties failed to dispose of their old methods and could not comprehend the change that had taken place or keep pace with the times.

[Al-Daw] But how can individuals be disarmed?

[Al-Shu'aybi] By awareness and by following the example of others. I recall that during the times of martyr al-Hamadi, people abandoned weapons because they followed al-Hamadi's example, so people regarded any violation as a shame.

[Al-Daw] What is the role of the Yemeni Jihad Movement in political violence?

[Al-Shu'aybi] It has a great share, of course. It wants to impose its presence in Yemen by violence. Some people power promote this attitude. Naturally, if this support ceases, the movement will lose contact with its roots.

[Al-Daw] Is the Yemeni Reform Grouping, led by Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, a facade for the Jihad Movement?

[Al-Shu'aybi] This is partly true, despite the fact that there are good elements in the Reform Grouping. However, others aggravate matters to reach a critical point. The YSP mentioned this, and pinpointed the Jihad Movement's camps. The authorities should take a fully clear position on this issue.

[Al-Daw] Is there any foreign support for the Jihad Movement?

[Al-Shu'aybi] Of course. The fundamentalist movements that recently emerged in the Arab arena are linked with each other. I believe al-Turabi's movement in Sudan is the spearhead. Regrettably, this issue has not yet been discussed seriously in Yemen, either at the level of the leadership, the media, or other levels.

[Al-Daw] Do you believe that there is any future for the phenomenon of fundamentalism in Yemen?

[Al-Shu'aybi] Whether in Yemen or elsewhere, this is a transitional phenomenon that is the result of transitional circumstances. Yemenis are a Muslim people by nature. They do not accept acts of atonement or violence. [passage omitted]

[Al-Daw] Can you shed light on the Liberation Front Party?

[Al-Shu'aybi] This party has been a political organization since the days of armed struggle. It consisted of several groups, including the labor conference in Aden, which played a major role in the 26 September revolution. The party received a blow in 1967, so its leaders went abroad. Most of its leaders lived in the former northern Yemen and were not allowed to act. The leadership is still abroad since conditions for its return are not yet opportune. These leaders include Secretary General 'Abd-al-Qawi Makkawi and 'Abdallah al-Asnaj. We are now trying to reinstate the party. In September, we inaugurated a headquarters in Aden, in addition to the first one. However, and as you know, posts were given to persons who would serve the authorities. We are facing such difficulties. The party, however, exists, even within the framework of the GPC and the YSP; there is 'Ali Ahmad Salamah, who used to head the Liberation Front's Political Bureau. There is also 'Abdallah Mutlaq, and Balin Bin- Raji' Bin-Labbuzah [name as transliterated], who is the brother of the man who unleashed the October revolution, and many others. [passage omitted]

Troop Movements Near Kurdish Territory Reported

PM0803100594 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Mar 94 p4

[Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—The Iraqi opposition has monitored new military movements along "the contact line in Kurdistan" and warned that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn had in a speech on 17 January threatened that "he would bring the Iraqi people the good tidings of recovering the north and would spend the 'id [feast] in Kurdistan." The United Nations and the UN Coordination Commission were informed of these developments and the latter said it was watching the situation.

A statement issued by the "Iraqi Transmitting Corporation" [ITC] [Hay'at al-Irsal al-'Iraqiyah] from its headquarters in Salah al-Din in northern Iraq said that the Iraqi Government has replaced its armed forces deployed along the contact line in Kurdistan in February. The statement, of which AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT received a copy in London, also said: The 10th Armored Division of the 1st Corps—one of the most important divisions in the Iraqi Armed Forces—has withdrawn, taking its armored units and advanced T-72 Russian-made tanks, and headed for the Tib area in the Maysan Governorate near the Iranian border. Its command used as headquarters a building opposite the radio and television premises in the town of al-'Amarah. A week later, the 1st Mechanized Infantry Division was moved by train to the north and took up positions in the area of Makhmur. The 24th Armored Brigade, supplied with T-55 tanks, is its only armored brigade.

The ITC did not give a clear reason for this change in which the more advanced tanks withdrew to be replaced by older tanks to carry out "the expected attack." The explanation is perhaps that the Iraqi regime wants to protect its wing on the Iranian border. The ITC also said that the al-'Abid forces of the Republican Guard, under the command of Staff Brigadier General Salih al-Hajj and his assistant Staff Colonel Nizar Husayn al-Husayni, have also moved up to the northern region and taken up positions near al-Mawsil dam with brigades deployed in Shaykhan, Fulyfilah, and Fa'idah. The changes also included withdrawal of the guard units near the contact lines and deployment of these units in towns. That was confirmed by Peshmerga forces and also by patrols of the Unified Iraqi National Congress [UING].

The ITC quoted its correspondent in al-Mawsil as saying that, during his visit to the town on 23 February, Saddam Husayn met with the party leaders and armed forces commanders in the northern intelligence service building in the town and told them that "he decided to attack" the region of Kurdistan during the 'Id al-Fitr period. That was accompanied by measures denoting aggressive intent. The Saddam Hospital in Karkuk was vacated to be ready to receive the wounded. The town of Karkuk was fortified and on the night of Monday, 28 February and in the early hours of Tuesday 1 March some armored units moved toward the areas of Bardarash and Shaykhan but stopped short of the contact line.

That prompted the Peshmerga Ministry in northern Iraq to send a notification to the UINC, the UN Coordination Commission, and the United Nations on 2 March warning of an imminent aggression against Kurdistan.

The statement added: The Peshmerga forces monitored major Iraqi forces movements including armor and heavy artillery in the direction of the areas of Fa'idah, Shaykhan, Ba'idrah, Bardarash, and Faysh Khabur along the contact line. Our correspondent in al-Mawsil says there is much talk in the Iraqi Army's officers' circles in the town about the possibility of an offensive. As a result, the Dahuk [Peshmerga] command requested a meeting with the UN Coordination Commission.

The ITC correspondent in Dahuk says that officers of that commission went to the Dahuk command on 2 March and met with Babakr, the Peshmerga commander in that area, and a number of Kurdistan Government officials.

Protests Reported; 'Uprising' in Karkuk Feared

NC0703201694 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1540 GMT 7 Mar 94

[Text] Reports received from Baghdad in the past few days speak of widespread marches and protests, in which the citizens expressed their anger and rejection of the dictatorial ruling regime in Baghdad. The reports say that demonstrators hoisted banners denouncing the regime and calling for its overthrow. The demonstrators also called for an improvement in living standards. Demonstrations are reported to have taken place in al-Qanah, Madinat al-Thawrah, Hayy Jamilah, and other Baghdad neighborhoods. Iraqis from all walks of life took part in the protests, openly declaring their discontent with the general situation and particularly with economic conditions.

The dictatorial regime answered the masses with its customary iron fist. Its forces used all types of weapons against the demonstrators, killing, and wounding many.

In its 4 March Issue, the AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT newspaper reports the eruption of widespread protests. It says that more than 1,600 Iraqi and Arab students took part in demonstrations in Baghdad, protesting the regime's closure of the Arab College for Science and Technology, a school founded by the Arab Food Industry Association.

AL-MU'TAMAR [paper of the United National Iraqi Congress], in today's issue, Monday, cites the Iraqi Broadcasting Corporation's correspondent in Baghdad as saying that a strong explosion occurred a few days ago in front of the main gate of al-Mustansiriyah University. The explosion rocked Baghdad and partially wrecked a large mural of Saddam Husayn. Security forces rushed to

the scene. The main gate of al-Mustansiriyah University is now closed until the damage is repaired.

This explosion follows a spate of attacks against patrols of security forces and police in all Baghdad areas during the past few weeks. Baghdad was also the scene of a wave of bombings. Gas stations in al-Thawrah and Abu Ghurayb were bombed in late February. The storage tanks of both stations caught fire, leading to explosions that were heard miles away.

In another development, reports from Baghdad cite well-informed sources as saying that the dictator's son-in law [Industry and Minerals Minister] Husayn Kamil is currently undergoing treatment in an Amman hospital for a gunshot wound to the head, not a head illness as earlier reported.

In Karkuk, the regime is reinforcing its forces in fear of a popular uprising that may jeopardize its hold on the city. Fear and panic are common among circles in the repressive regime. The local authorities are employing a variety of intimidation tactics to terrorize the population into submission.

Karkuk military commanders have instructed army patrols to prevent young men from al-Sulaymaniyah from travelling to Karkuk and Baghdad.

The regime has massed many troops in the Khalid barracks, as well as in Andik and (Naylan). On 5 March, 60 tanks arrived from Tikrit at the Khalid barraks near Karkuk. Infantry and a number of tanks have been dispatched to Jabal Bur in anticipation of a popular uprising in Karkuk.

The regime has also begun dismantling the big prefab installations on the side of Karkuk-Irbil road and sending them to (Hamuwir) and other cities under its control.

Reports from Karkuk also indicate that the regime arrested a number of retired Kurdish officers in the city. No information is yet available about their fate.

A senior official in the ruling party, during a recent visit to (al-Hawijah), expressed concern that a popular uprising is brewing in Karkuk. The air is rife with tension and uncertainty in that city, and regime forces have assumed positions at key junctures as well as hilltops. The Saddam Hospital in Karkuk has been evacuated and a curfew is in force in the areas of Azabi, al-Sharja, and al-Iskan. Many citizens have been arrested.

In another development, many of the regime's servicemen in Mosul are reportedly afraid of the possibility of a popular uprising erupting in that city. To confront the situation, the regime sent troops armed with field artillery to al-Nu'maniyah and Ba'shiqah.

Opposition Details Reported Uprisings, Clashes

PM0803113194 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Mar 94 p2

[Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Iraqi opposition statements yesterday spoke of "tumultuous uprisings" in more than one Iraqi region and of military operations and scorched earth campaigns by the government of Baghdad.

A statement issued by the "Iraqi National Accord" Organization said that the masses in Baghdad, al-Basrah, al-'Amarah, and al-Nasiriyah staged a furious "uprising" [intifadah] last Thursday. The statement, issued in Salah-al-Din in northern Iraq, said that the "uprising" began in the areas of al-Thawrah, al-Hurriyah, and al-Shu'lah and then extended to al-Taji, al-Dulu'iyah, Samarra', al-Dujayl, and al-Dawr. The masses managed to control the Baghdad-al-Mawsil road.

The statement, a copy of which was received by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in London, added that some areas in the governorates of al-Basrah, al-Nasiriyah, and al-'Amarah later joined the "uprising" and that the protesters were in control of several areas between Baghdad and Samarra' and fought fierce battles against the Tammuz Division which consists of emergency forces and Republican Guards—the forces deployed by the government in Baghdad since last Wednesday.

Another statement issued by the Organization of "the Mujahidin of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq" said that the Baghdad government "has completed preparations for a new attack on the marshes areas in the governorates of al-Basrah and Maysan."

The statement added that these preparations followed heavy artillery bombardment of various areas, using napalm and incendiary bombs to destroy the plantations which acted as barriers. It also said that last Wednesday a large armored force joined the commando units of the 14th Division in some areas in Maysan.

Government forces had set fire to some areas in al-Hayadir in al-Basrah Governorate on 27 February, and the 1st and 2d battalions of the 47th Brigade moved toward al-Saddah-712 in al-Hayadir area on 3 March. Fires were seen raging in the sugarcane fields adjacent to the main road.

Opposition Says Government Planning Attack in North

LD0703215994 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1850 GMT 7 Mar 94

[Text] Damascus, 7 March—An Iraqi opposition movement today warned the international community that the Iraqi regime was planning to launch a large-scale attack against northern Iraq fearing a popular uprising there. According to a press statement released here by the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], the regime's leadership started to mass large numbers of infantry and

tanks east of the city of Karkuk along the front line with the Kurdish forces. It was also stockpiling weapons and equipment, and transporting about 60 tanks from the city of Tikrit to the Khalid military camp near Karkuk. The statement cited a party official in the regime, Muhammad Hasan al-Zubaydi, as having told the inhabitants of (al-Hujah) area that "the regime is worried about the possibility of a popular uprising in the city of Karkuk and its environs and calls on all to arm themselves to defend the city." The statement added: We bring the attention of world public opinion, those concerned about human rights and friends to the adverse consequences and the monstrous massacres that could take place if the regime succeeds in carrying out its plans against the northern areas. The statement also reported that the regime had recently arrested a group of retired military men in the city of Karkuk; their fate was still unknown. The regime's authorities had also planted a large number of agents in the midst of the people of the city and increased its military presence fearing a popular explosion against it. In another statement the Iraqi opposition movement said that the aircraft of the Iraqi regime had recently bombed the (Albu Namr) tribe in the area of (Hiziri) which is part of Ramadi Province, as a result of which many members of the tribe were killed or injured.

Official Addresses Ba'th Party Cadres

JN0803084694 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 24 Feb 94 p 3

[Speech by Dr. Ilyas Farah, official in charge of the Cultural and Information Bureau of the National Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, at the Party Preparation School, date not given: "The Hope and Challenge Session"]

[Excerpts] Dear comrades, students of the Hope and Challenge Session.

In the name of the Cultural and Information Bureau and on behalf of the comrade bureau directors and members, I am pleased to extend our congratulations to you on the conclusion of your 28th session. In as much as it is an occasion to express your joy, it is also an occasion to recall your experiences during the short period of this course and to conclude lessons for the future. [passage omitted]

"Hope and Challenge" is the title of a strategy that stems from historical awareness of the events in the present phase—crucial events in rare and extraordinary circumstances. This historical, principled awareness exposes weak analyses and political theories that judge events in the superficial traditional way that sees the near and distant Arab future only through U.S. and Zionist analyses and the influence of Western propaganda. They portray the Arab situation as a vacuum that cannot be filled by a nation with history or created by struggle.

Therefore, the comrade graduates of this course are called upon, now that they have acquired qualitative ideological weapons from the spirit of the Mother of Battles, to face these political and ideological challenges with historical logic backed by scientific thought, struggle spirit, and cultural heritage. The speech by the comrade leader on the third anniversary of the 30-state aggression crowns all the intellectual efforts exerted after the Mother of Battles to provide full answers to the questions presented by Arab destiny and the national, Arab, and international future.

You, comrades, are humanity's vanguard on the path of straightening out ideology and cleansing souls and spirits of all the corruption in the universe, thereby declaring the inevitable downfall of the cultural structure, which lacks moral bases and human spirit. You are the builders of a new civilization, just as your forefathers were the first builders of civilization. As in the dawn of human history, Iraq today is a great teacher of history, civilization, and struggle. It is a living embodiment of the spirit of the vision, and the immortal meanings of patriotism, nationalism, and humanitarianism. This is a starting point for a decisive, historical transformation in the life of the nation and the modern world.

Congratulations to you and to Iraq for alerting mankind to the reality of a changing conspiratorial world, foiling the electronic war game, and exposing U.S. victory claims by preventing the evil 30-station aggression from undermining our great principled steadfastness, cultural struggle, and material and spiritual reconstruction whose miracles have been achieved on the land of Iraq under the leadership of the hero of Iraq and the nation comrade leader Saddam Husayn. [passage omitted]

Comrades, the theorization taking place today about the superior American way of life, "the Zionist era," and "the American age" or "Americanism" is only a distortion of civilization and an expression of delusions based on half truths. This is in addition to its inherent weaknesses, moral regression, and cultural alienation .

"Americanism", which seeks to generalize the American way of life, is founded on three bases:

1. Superiority, challenge, and violence as reflected by the cowboy mentality, to quote Quincey Wright.

2. Bigotry based on race and Protestant religious values.

3. Expediency which believes in the relativity of values and uses success as a standard for truth.

These bases make the American feel he is the master of standards. The double-dealing that permeates U.S. morality, the exploitation of freedom as applied to money matters and the media, and the compromise of values make everything in the American way of life, even honor and sovereignty, subject to bargain and compromise. Under such pragmatism, life itself becomes a series of deals.

Thus, war is a deal; peace is a deal; persuading others to surrender and accept established facts is a deal;, publicizing and marketing liberal democracy and human

rights to turn political and economic institutions into annexes for the U.S. capitalist system is a deal; considering religion, patriotism, and nationalism as fundamentalism which must be avoided; publicizing Western secularism and internationalist trends; opening up fronts against nationalism, Arabism, and Islam; advocating common strategies to fight Arab awakening and to Americanize and Judaize life in the world are all deals.

There is only one starting point for facing this aggressive American model which serves Zionist aims: namely, the Mother of Battles' spirit, rationalism, renewed unity principles, true democracy, and socialism based on lessons learned from world experiments which express true human tendencies and address the needs of national awakening. The Mother of Battles embodies the alternative Arab cultural model which can, in a balanced and integrated manner, interact with ideology and technology, revolution and wealth, and Man and his humanitarian mission, because the Mother of Battles is a spark from the mission's spirit, the Ba'thist spirit.

You, the sons of the Mother of Battles, have the responsibility to build this new cultural model and to defend it with intellect, struggle, construction, creativeness and by raising the nation's struggle power to the point where it can settle the historic confrontation in favor of Arabism and human civilization. You are qualified to assume this responsibility. I congratulate you and wish you great success in your struggle tasks under the principled historical leadership of leader comrade Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him. Peace be upon you.

Ba'th, Bulgarian Parties Urge Ending Blockade

JN0603170094 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 Mar 94

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Mar (INA)—The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the Bulgarian Liberal Democratic Party have denounced the unjust blockade imposed on the Iraqi people. They said the blockade is considered a means to intervene in Iraqi internal affairs and runs contrary to all international charters and agreements, heavenly laws, and human rights.

In a joint communique, signed for the Ba'th Party by the director of the Iraq Command's Foreign Relations Bureau and for the Bulgarian Liberal Democratic Party by party leader Veslin Koshev, the two parties call for the lifting of the unjust blockade, which has been imposed on Iraq for more than three years, for respecting Iraqi sovereignty and independence, and for respecting its people's free will.

The communique noted the need to improve the ties of cooperation between the two parties through the exchange of delegations, visits, publications, and circulars to serve the common interests of the two friendly peoples and strengthen ties between them in all fields.

The communique further urges the need for coordination and cooperation between the two parties in national, regional, and international conferences to expose the allegations and claims of the world media and the tendentious propaganda; to reject all forms of aggression, hegemony, exploitation, and the double standards policy in addressing world problems; to serve the principles of progress, freedom, and social justice; to realize security and peace among nations; and to ensure respect for international law.

Bulgarian Delegation Departs

JN0803095894 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0912 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Mar (INA)—Veselin Koshev, leader of the Bulgarian Liberal Democratic Party [BLDP], and his accompanying delegation concluded an official visit of several days to Iraq today.

During the visit, the Bulgarian party delegation held talks with several Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and state officials dealing with the promotion of the cooperation and friendship ties between the Ba'th Party and the BLDP, and between both friendly countries in the service of their peoples' interest.

Memo to UN Protests Recent U.S. Air Activity

JN0603133494 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 6 Mar 94

[Text] Iraq has lodged a fresh protest with the United Nations against Iraqi airspace violations by U.S. aircraft for purposes of surveillance and harassment, and to drop flares.

A protest memorandum delivered to the UN secretary general by the Iraqi permanent representative to the United Nations yesterday stated that U.S. aircraft conducted 421 air sorties over Iraqi territory during period 21-28 February. U.S. aircraft flew at medium altitudes over areas in northern and southern Iraq, including Mosul, Irbil, Dahuk, Zakho, al-Nasiriyah, al-Samawah, al-'Amarah, al-Basrah, Artawi, al-Diwaniyah, Qal'at Salih, and al-Qusayr.

The memorandum noted that a hostile plane dropped three flares over al-Shaykhan District in Ninawa Governorate on 24 February. On 26 February, TR-1 U.S. reconnaissance aircraft violated Iraqi airspace over al-Samawah, al-'Amarah, southern al-Diwaniyah, al-Qurnah, and al-Basrah. Then, they headed for Saudi Arabia.

Iraq requested that this memorandum be circulated as a UN Security Council document.

Efforts, Measures To End Blockade Assessed

JN0603135894 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 24 Feb 94 p 2

[Article by 'Abd al-Jabbar Muhsin: "Contribution to the Question of Lifting the Blockade"]

[Text] During the roundtable discussion on lifting the blockade that aired on Youth Television, several valuable opinions were expressed on the subject. So there may not be anything new in this article. Still, I will try to highlight some of the points of that discussion. We will observe that the Mother of Battles began essentially as an economic aggression manifested by an undeclared embargo on several commodities and technologies. They then plotted against the oil prices in a deliberate attempt to reduce Iraq's revenues when it was in dire need of foreign currencies. This was accompanied by a conspiracy against the value of the Iraqi currency.

Needless to say, the first to point out that these measures constituted a real war against us was our leader Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, at the Baghdad Arab summit. After the war and its outcome, the West, led by the United States, persisted, in harmony with Zionist aims, to use different excuses to prolong the blockade in the hope of achieving by economic war what they could not achieve by force of arms.

With this simple introduction, I now go straight to the topic and propose the following:

1. We should declare that trade with any country wishing to deal with Iraq after the removal of the blockade will not be a favor to Iraq, or a friendly or fraternal stand, but a fait accompli stand.

2. Thus, our dialogue with the big powers and neighboring states should follow two courses: First, the course of intimidation, which, in short, means that there will be no special relationship, trade benefits, priority in debt payments, preference in oil supply, commodity and expertise exports to Iraq, or job opportunities for companies with regard to any country not currently adopting a just and equitable stand. Second, the course of temptation, which means that every country that says it has changed its attitude about Iraq and is actually endeavoring in international forums—by word, action, and stand—to lift the blockade, will enjoy most favored nation rights regarding oil supply, and possibly with regard to preferential prices and debt payments. It will also benefit from an Iraqi market that hungers for foreign commodities, and in the opportunities given to foreign companies. We could, in this regard, sign immediate agreements.

3. Since hostile circles are now diverting the blockade from diplomatic and media attention in order to clamp a blackout on this exposed crime and to prevent the formation of supporting public opinion, nationalist forces, social figures, professional organizations, and men of religion who took part in the popular forces conferences and the Islamic conference in Baghdad should take action in two directions: First, form a public pressure group against the aggressors in support of Iraq by all available means, including pulpits, statements, demonstrations, declarations, solidarity strikes for several hours, fasting for a whole day or part of a day, roundtable discussions, and news conferences. Otherwise, there is little use in resolutions issued in Baghdad and then shelved here and forgotten there. Second, use these methods in calling for the boycott of American goods and interests in the Arab and Islamic states. I believe such calls will find a response even among our people in the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf states.

4. The enemies are betting that the phenomenon of the rising price spiral that some merchants cause from time to time will exhaust people's patience, deepen their concern, and destroy their morale. All I am asking is for these elements, whether they are individuals or groups, to be singled out and punished on the basis of the revolutionary code of fairness in punishment and reward. Leaving matters unattended has given these elements the opportunity to continue their despicable behavior in defiance of the people and the revolution.

5. These proposals require active support on the diplomatic, media, party, and professional levels. We know decisionmakers at all these levels are truly strong and competent, and the outsiders have weak excuses. Therefore, until the blockade is lifted, we should choose elements with a high sense of responsibility and on the basis of competence and sincerity, not favoritism.

Finally, these proposals may not be the right ones, but they are suitable as a basis for discussion.

Citizens Can Buy, Sell Foreign Currency in Banks

JN0703161394 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1520 GMT 7 Mar 94

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Mar (INA)—A responsible source at the Iraqi Central Bank has confirmed that foreign currency can be bought and sold through the branches of the licensed commercial banks in Baghdad and the governorates and through the companies licensed to buy and sell foreign currencies.

In a statement to INA, the source said that these branches and companies have the financial and technical resources to help citizens buy and sell foreign currencies easily and in a legitimate way. Such dealings, the source added, will also ensure a safe dealing in national and foreign currencies.

Ministry Reportedly Cancels Jordanian Transport Contracts

JN0803090094 Amman AKHIR KHABAR in Arabic 7-8 Mar 94 p 1

[By Jumanah Halasah]

[Text] The Iraqi Ministry of Transport has canceled all contracts with Jordanian transportation firms. Observers say this measure will paralyze a large sector of the Jordanian economy.

AKHIR KHABAR has learned that Iraq will confine transportation to the Iraqi-Jordanian Land Transport

Company. Iraq did not explain this measure or announce it; it implemented it on the ground. Sources told us that Jordanian transportation firms are trying to take a unified stand and address the Jordanian and Iraqi Governments in order to explain the extent of damage they will sustain.

It is noteworthy that approximately 80 percent of these firms' work is devoted to Iraq. This shows the size of this problem. Truck drivers are living in extremely difficult conditions at the Iraqi-Jordanian border area of al-Ruwayshid. AKHIR KHABAR has learned that world television networks will today begin to raise this problem as a political issue, taking pictures of the al- Ruwayshid area.

Columnist Examines Lessons of Egypt-Syria Union

JN0603074194 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 22 Feb 94 pp 1, 2

[Article by Salah al-Mukhtar: "1958 Union Anniversary; Mother of Battles; Arab Unity"]

[Text] Today is the birthday of the first Arab union in contemporary history—the United Arab Republic— a name that plays upon the heart strings of Arab nationalists. The United Arab Republic was the product of a merger between Egypt and Syria and the struggle and sacrifices of the Arab masses. It came about as the result of the historic agreement between the late Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir and the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

Those of us who experienced that major, historic, and memorable event must recall it with great pride. It was the fulfillment of a dream cherished by successive generations and thousands of Arab martyrs. It dealt a body blow to the satanic alliance between the Zionist movement and British-led Western colonialism.

Having labored for decades under British and French colonialism and for much longer under the Ottoman Empire, Arabs—spearheaded by Ba'thist militants allied with Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir—rose from the ruins of repeated defeat. They took a determined stand against a Zionist-Western alliance bent on keeping Arabs divided and on looting their resources.

The tide of pan-Arab liberation had to contend with Western manipulated Arab regimes that were lying in wait to abort the Arab nationalist policies. While some such regimes played up to Arab nationalists in the hope of containing them, others resorted to the more direct approach of repressing and liquidating Arab militants fighting for freedom and Arab unity. Thus, a bitter struggle began, pitting anti-colonialist, progressive Arab liberation forces against the colonialist-Zionist camp, aided by reactionary and agent Arab dictatorships.

With huge resources at the disposal of the enemies and the inexperience of the new unionist state, colonialism plotted the retrogressive secessionist coup of 28 September, 1961, setting the stage for a campaign to contain the Arab liberation movement and drown it in a sea of blood. Hence the string of crimes committed against the standard bearers of Arab nationalism by the reactionary and hireling Arab regimes, some of which, thanks to their imperialist backers, are still in power.

Arab unionists must never lose sight of the fact that the first Arab unionist experiment would not have failed if it had not been for reactionary Arab dictatorships that had been recruited by Zionism and colonialism to strike at Arab unity.

With the foremost colonialist power of the day contending that it wants to spread democracy and human rights, we should remind our younger generation that by wrecking the Syrian-Egyptian merger, the West and the United States took a stand against democracy.

We feel we must point out that the Mother of Battles counts as the most decisive and far-reaching in the history of Arab struggle. If Zionism and colonialism assassinated Egyptian-Syrian unity, Ba'thist militants, led by Saddam Husayn, holding the banner of Arabism, and armed with the lessons learned from that rich experiment, achieved a major victory in the Mother of Battles against the U.S.-led Western forces of evil.

Our victory in the Mother of Battles is not limited to a single front, as some may think. Three years after the aggression, the hostile forces have begun to admit that Iraq scored a series of victories. Militarily, Iraq was able to deter America and its allies from pursuing the land war. More importantly, Iraq won the battle of wills by thwarting the U.S. effort to invade its territory and liquidate its leadership. Furthermore, the United States failed to destroy Iraq's industrial base. Strategically, the U.S. effort to gain control over the oil of the world and use the crude as a political and economic weapon against its enemies has also failed. The credit belongs to Iraq, which managed to neutralize oil as a weapon.

The generation led by Saddam Husayn has learned the lesson of the aborted union and set up a pan-Arab experiment that survived the labors of birth and then firmed up its foundations. It is now a lighthouse showing the way for freedom- and independence-lovers around the world. Iraq's pan-Arab experiment is the proper response to all Arab defeats, not least Syria's secession from Egypt in 1961.

Hail to all the militants who presided over the 1958 union, led by Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir.

Let the faithful who defended the honor of Arabism and Islam in the Mother of Battles hold firmly to and raise the banner of Arab unity.

Hail to the great militant Saddam Husayn who succeeded in realizing the most widespread and deepest Arab unity that was apparent in the Arab masses rallying around his excellency's pan- Arab banner.

Emissaries Return After Meeting With 'Arafat

TA0703160594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 7 Mar 94

[Text] Two Israeli emissaries returned home from Cairo after conferring there with PLO leaders, including Yasir 'Arafat. They reported to the prime minister on the talks. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the two, the prime minister's political adviser Jacques Neriya, and Colonel 'Amos Gil'ad, Mr. Rabin's deputy military secretary, left for Cairo this morning after consultations with the prime minister. They were instructed to find out 'Arafat's real stand on the possible resumption of the talks between Israel and the PLO.

The PLO's ambassador in Cairo said an Israeli envoy would arrive in Tunis within two days to hand 'Arafat Israel's response to the organization's demands on the security of the Palestinians in the territories. He said the PLO would decide whether to renew the peace talks based on Israel's answers.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1400 GMT on 7 March reports that "Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian delegation, told the PLO in Tunis that the Neriya-'Arafat meeting was positive, and that Neriya took notes, which he will deliver to Prime Minister Rabin this evening. Speaking to our correspondent, Sha'th said that it is still too early to speak of a summit meeting between 'Arafat and Rabin, but stressed that the contacts are positive, and that it is possible that developments will take place in several days, if Israel accepts the requests raised in Neriya's meeting with 'Arafat."]

'Sources' Optimistic Over 'Arafat's Remarks

TA0803053194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Text] Political sources in Jerusalem say the conditions are not right yet for renewing negotiations with the PLO. At the same time, the sources told Qol Yisra'el's political affairs correspondent that Yasir 'Arafat's remarks in Cairo to senior Israeli officials leaves grounds for optimism. The contacts would enable further exchanges between the parties. Attending the meeting with 'Arafat in Cairo were Prime Minister Rabin's political adviser Jacques Neriya, his deputy military secretary, Lieutenant Colonel 'Amos Gil'ad, and Israel's Ambassador David Sultan. Premier Rabin was briefed last night on the contacts and will today hold consultations on what transpired in Cairo. 'Arafat has meanwhile returned to Tunis.

Diplomatic Sources on Four-Point Peace Compromise

TA0403181994 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 4 Mar 94 pp 1, 6

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari, Pe'erli Shahar, Aharon Klein, and Natan Gutman in Washington]

[Excerpt] Diplomatic sources in Israel reported that international elements are trying to work out a four-point compromise permitting the resumption of the Washington talks: Israel will speed up the process of disarming the dangerous settlers; Israel will move "settlement points" in the heart of Arab towns—Hebron, Nabulus, and Jericho, as well as Netzarim; the UN Relief and Works Agency will be strengthened and Israel will recognize its presence outside the refugee camps and its status as an observer, which it took on during the intifadah to Israel's dismay; and Israel will agree to release more Palestinian prisoners beyond the 1,000 already freed.

The sources said that if all the sides agree to this wording it will be possible to renew the talks in Washington in 10 days. [passage omitted]

Beilin Says Agreement Only Way To End Bloodshed

LD0403153794 Bern Swiss Radio International in English 1100 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] [Unidentified correspondent] Israel's deputy foreign minister, Yosi Beilin, is on an official visit to Switzerland. He met with the state secretary in the Swiss Foreign Ministry, Jakob Kellenberger, for talks on issues ranging from the Middle East peace process to closer economic ties between the two countries. Mr. Kellenberger expressed concern about human rights in the occupied territories following the Hebron massacre last week in which a Jewish settler shot over 40 Muslim worshippers. At a press conference in Berne I asked Mr. Beilin how much of a threat the massacre poses to the Middle East peace talks.

[Begin recording] [Beilin] We hope and pray that it won't be a kind of a setback, and that all parties will understand that the best answer to the lunatics of this world is not to stop the process but to accelerate it, so that we will be able to conclude the negotiations about Gaza and Jericho and to go on to implement it as soon as possible. And once there is the change on the ground and once the Palestinians are having their own police forces and they are in charge of their own business, that will be the best answer to the extremists who would not like to see a peaceful solution for the Middle East.

[Correspondent] I wanted to know what measures Israel is going to take now to reassure the PLO and to get it back to the negotiating table.

[Beilin] Well, first of all I believe that the most important thing is to get back to the negotiating table. We took some measures but it is mainly for ourselves in order to do whatever possible to prevent the recurring of such an awful event. We are speaking about confiscating of the arms of some of the extremists in the West Bank, about restricting their moves [as heard], about the first time when there was a closure on a Jewry [as heard] settlement in the territories. We also released 500 prisoners, Palestinian prisoners, and we are going to continue this

process of releasing prisoners. But I believe that getting back to the negotiating table should not be a result of those steps or others, but a real interest of both parties. Because that is the best and only solution for the situation: Until now there were about 35 Israelis who have been killed by Palestinians since the signing of the agreement, there were more than 50 Palestinians killed in this massacre and later on. We have to put an end to this bloodshed and the only way to put an end to it is to sign the agreement between us and to implement it. The leaderships are ready, we have to educate both our peoples that there is no better option than that.

[Correspondent] How is Israel planning to ensure the security of the Palestinians in the occupied territories?

[Beilin] Well, first of all, I think that the most important thing is that they will have their own Palestinian police force, and they may have it if we sign the agreement, and we're speaking about weeks, not about months. It is a very important challenge for the Palestinians themselves—I can understand the difficulty which is there—but they have to take this challenge and to fulfil it. Of course there are Palestinians in other parts of the West Bank which will not be under the jurisdiction of the Gaza-Jericho council and we will have to do whatever possible in order not to expose them to dangers. I believe that those measures which were taken by the government and to which I referred to before, will help us in ensuring the security of the Palestinians.

[Correspondent] Is there any question of moving the settlers back to Israel?

[Beilin] No, we are not speaking about such a thing. We agreed with the Palestinians that the whole issue of the future of the settlements will be considered and debated towards the permanent solution and we agreed to (?reach) a permanent solution in five years from now, which means '99, and until then we will have to negotiate about the future of the borders, of the settlements. We cannot do such a thing in a very short while, and I think that we shouldn't. [end recording]

[Correspondent] That was Israel's deputy foreign minister Yosi Beilin at a press conference in Bern.

Beilin 'Confident' About Future of Peace Talks

BR0803160394 Rome L'UNITA in Italian 8 Mar 94 p 17

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin by Umberto De Giovannangeli in Jerusalem; date not given: "A Rapid Israeli Withdrawal—Only in This Way Can We Save Peace"—first paragraph is L'UNITA introduction]

[Text] Jerusalem—"Despite all the current difficulties, I believe that the handshake between Rabin and 'Arafat represents a point of no return. We must get back to the negotiations table as soon as possible: because I am convinced that this time we will succeed in resolving all the issues that still remain open." Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin is certain of this. The hopes of peace in the Middle East have not faded.

[De Giovannangeli] In your opinion do the margins for a resumption in negotiations between Israel and the PLO exist for the immediate future as well as for an acceleration in the withdrawal of the Israeli Army from Gaza and Jericho?

[Beilin] In the last sessions of negotiations with the PLO we dealt with practically all the fundamental issues relating to the implementation of the declaration of principles signed in Washington. We were on the point of closing this phase of talks. Then the Hebron massacre took place. Nevertheless, I am convinced that if we return to negotiate quickly, which I think is possible, we will succeed in speeding up the implementation of autonomy in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

[De Giovannangeli] At what point are diplomatic discussions on the possible deployment of international observers or a multinational military contingent in the occupied territories?

[Beilin] The problem has already been raised in Oslo and an accord with the PLO has been reached on an international presence in Gaza and Jericho during the transitory phase of autonomy. The Palestinians should understand the novelty and the importance of this "yes" by Israel, a fact that is without precedent in our history.

[De Giovannangeli] A civilian presence or even a military presence?

[Beilin] Civilian, only civilian.

[De Giovannangeli] The position of Syria is crucial in achieving overall peace in the Middle East. Can you tell us if something is moving in negotiations with Damascus, even if officially interrupted.

[Beilin] There is no doubt that Syria today still maintains a central role in the Middle East scenario: Peace with President al-Asad would mean really turning over a new leaf in this tormented region. But peace as defined by Syria is still a limited "armored" peace that is dictated more by necessity than by conviction.

[De Giovannangeli] Instead what kind of peace does Israel propose?

[Beilin] Total peace, without any restrictions on the economic, political, and diplomatic relations front. If Syria is willing to talk about peace in these terms, on our side we could easily open discussions on the schedule and the extent of our withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

[De Giovannangeli] In these days, the usual proclamations of war seem to be accompanied by some signs of flexibility from the Palestinian refusal front, and even from the Hamas integralists. Do you think that these signs are credible?

[Beilin] Absolutely not. Hamas has gained consensus not because of the strength of his ideas but because of the poverty and the profound hardship that marks the life of Palestinians today, particularly in the Gaza Strip. For this I consider it crucial to accelerate the process of autonomy. I am convinced that when the economy of the territories becomes buoyant and when the Palestinian police force is formed, many will pass over to the side of the PLO. I believe that the effort of 'Arafat, also in view of the elections in Gaza and Jericho, will be to form a coalition among the moderate elements. At least this is what I hope.

[De Giovannangeli] Are you optimistic, pessimistic, or "uncertain" over the likelihood of a resumption in peace negotiations?

[Beilin] Despite everything, I am confident about the future of the negotiations. For a very simple reason: because I do not see any other path to follow. There is no alternative to dialogue. The choice of peaceful cohabitation, which lies at the basis of the Washington accords and which unites the majority of the Israelis and Palestinians remains irreversible, and no terrorist act can place this under discussion again.

[De Giovannangeli] The Jewish settlements in the territories, which the Palestinians are asking to be dismantled even in light of the Hebron massacre, are an obstacle on the road to peace today.

[Beilin] The Oslo accords postponed discussions on the settlements to the final phase of negotiations. And for us this still remains valid. It does not mean, however, that we will not act to stop the colonization and above all to suppress the terrorist acts of extremist groups.

[De Giovannangeli] But disarming the colonists and dismantling, even if this is gradual, the settlements are requests that have also been advanced by the Meretz ministers, to whom Rabin seems to want to respond by opening to the Tsomet of the right.

[Beilin] Personally, I hope that the Tsomet will not enter the government. However, even if this were to happen, the peace process will not be interrupted and neither will the decision to negotiate with the PLO under the terms sanctioned by the accord on Gaza and Jericho be questioned again.

Knesset Member Katz Receives Letter From 'Arafat

NC0403112694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Knesset Member Yosi Katz today received a letter from Yasir 'Arafat in which he expresses the hope that all the forces working for peace in Israel will participate in adopting practical measures to block the activities of the settlers, something that will make it possible to quickly implement the Declaration of Principles agreement.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that 'Arafat sent the letter in response to a cable from Knesset Member Katz in which he called on him to demonstrate leadership and overcome those who are trying to torpedo the peace process.

Labor Says Meretz Inclusion 'Vital' for Talks

TA0703160294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 7 Mar 94

[Text] The Labor bureau and caucus decided that the agreement with Meretz is binding and it is vital for the continuation of the peace talks that Meretz remain in the coalition. The participants also expressed support for the initiative to co-opt into the coalition any Knesset faction that accepts the government's basic guidelines and the agreement with the PLO. The prime minister told the meeting that in the wake of the Hebron massacre there is an atmosphere of pre-retaliation in the Arab world. The government must be prepared, and expand the coalition.

Our party affairs correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin attacked the prime minister saying that he does not call a spade a spade, and plays a game of saying yes and no at the same time. Beilin quoted from the Kahn Commission on the Sabra and Shatila massacre on what it had to say about Refa'el Eytan and asked how international public opinion and the Arabs could accept Eytan joining the government. Beilin was constantly interrupted by catcalls.

The Meretz Knesset faction unilaterally reaffirmed its opposition to Tzomet joining the government. The faction said that Meretz cannot be a member of a government in which Tzomet is a member under the present circumstances, and its ministers will resign the moment negotiations are opened between Labor and Tzomet. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir notes that during the meeting, Minister Shulamit Aloni apologized for her reported remarks in YEDI'OT AHARONOT that Sarid "is a spokesman and a public relations man" and said she had no intention of criticizing Yosi Sarid. She also made it clear that there is no basis for the reports that she opposes the faction's stand on Tzomet. Meretz decided to express full confidence in Minister Yosi Sarid and his contribution to the movement's position on Tzomet.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 7 March adds: "Tzomet sources told our correspondent that senior party members who spoke to Prime Minister Rabin over the phone during the past few hours understood that the Tzomet story is over, and that the main thing now is bringing SHAS (Torah Observing Sephardim) back into the government while reaching a compromise with Meretz. Tripartite Meretz-SHAS-Labor negotiations are currently under way."]

Tzomet Chairman Refa'el Eytan informed his Knesset faction that he is waiting to hear from the prime minister, if he intends to invite Tzomet to negotiations on joining the coalition. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports Eytan as saying that if he is invited, he will go to

the meeting. Nobody in the faction had reservations about that position. Eytan said he would present the prime minister with positions he has coordinated with Zvulun Hammer, the National Religious Party chairman.

Commission of Inquiry on Massacre Begins Work

TA0803071694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Text] The state commission of inquiry into the Hebron massacre will begin its work this morning. Today, the commission will interview 11 witnesses from the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]. The first witness is Major General Dani Yatom, the commander of the Central Command. The military commander of the Cave of the Patriarchs will also appear before the commission. Our legal affairs correspondent Mira Amsalem reports:

The state commission of inquiry known as the Shamgar [named after Supreme Court justice heading it] commission will start its proceedings this morning by hearing the testimony of military personnel. The first witness will be Maj. Gen. Dani Yatom, the commander of the Central Command. The members of the commission—Justice Me'ir Shamgar, the president of the Supreme Court; Justice El'iezer Goldberg, Judge 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Zu'bi, Professor Menahem Ya'ari, and former Chief of Staff Moshe Levi—will hear the testimony of and interrogate Maj. Gen. Yatom. Afterwards, apparently today, they will also hear the testimony of Major General Sha'ul Mufaz, the commander of IDF forces in Judaea and Samaria. The commander of the [0006]ave of the Patriarchs will also be interrogated this week. As a rule, the commission will hold its proceedings four times a week, in the morning and in the afternoon. Due to the Ramadan fast, the Arab witnesses will only testify before the commission after the fast is over, in approximately two weeks.

This week, then, military, police, and Border Police personnel will give testimony. The witnesses will appear without legal counsel. If the commission decides that certain witnesses may be harmed by their testimony, they will be warned and subsequently permitted to employ legal representation. However, it may be safely assumed that some of the witnesses have already received, or will receive, private legal counselling before testifying to the commission.

The commission's letter of appointment stipulates that it will investigate findings and reach conclusions as to the facts and circumstances relating to the massacre. In its search for the truth, the commission of inquiry into the Hebron massacre may reach the highest levels of the IDF, the Civil Administration, the Shin Bet, and even up to the defense minister. The commission has been given the results of the IDF's investigation into the massacre and additional material amassed by the attorneys responsible for collecting all relevant material, Miki Shaqed and Dafna Bienvoll.

The military investigation has already revealed flaws in security regulations at the Cave; however, this is only one aspect of the investigation. Beyond clarifying the facts, the commission must also present its findings as to the responsibility for the massacre. The commission will try to answer these most disturbing questions in the form of recommendations for future implementation and personal conclusions with regard to actions taken by specific parties in the past. Did the Shin Bet indeed issue an early warning? What was the nature of the activities of the members of the Kakh organization and the murderer Barukh Goldstein? What were the standard security regulations at the Cave of the Patriarchs and what were the instructions and regulations governing behavior at the site? Were the authorities adequately prepared for the Ramadan fast? And finally, who bears responsibility for all this?

The commission of inquiry has published notices in the newspapers calling on all witnesses to the massacre to come and testify. This is the 11th commission of inquiry established according to law. Four commissions in the past recommended the dismissal of senior officials. According to various assessments, it will take this commission at least two months to publish its recommendations.

IDF: No Reserve Duty for Settlers on Detention

TA0503194794 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 5 Mar 94

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has decided that settlers who received orders restricting their movements or administrative detention orders and have had their IDF weapons taken away, will not serve in their reserve units and will not be called up for reserve duty for the time being, the IDF spokesman said tonight.

The parents of Eyal Moqed, one of the administrative detainees, announced that they would demonstrate tonight outside the Hasharon Prison demanding that their son be presented immediately before a judge as is the practice in administrative detentions cases of any Israeli citizen. Shmu'el Ben-Ishay of Qiryat Arba', who was detained for three months under an administrative order, is also incarcerated in Hasharon Prison, and the High Court of Justice will consider the legality of his detention this week.

Minister Recommends Extended Closure of Strip

TA0803110094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Text] Police Minister Moshe Shahal said there was no chance that the closure on the Gaza Strip would be lifted within the next few weeks. He recommended extending the closure for as long as possible in order to prevent terrorists from crossing the Green Line in order to carry out attacks.

Our correspondent Nisim Qeynan reports that the police minister was speaking during a visit to Beersheba prison where he inaugurated two new structures which can accommodate 300 prisoners.

Party Files No-Confidence Motion on Evacuation

TA0703174194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 7 Mar 94

[Text] The National Religious Party has decided to present a motion of no-confidence to the government over, what it called, the intention to expel Jews from Hebron and prevent Jews from praying at the Western Wall on Friday [11 March]. The motion will be taken up next Monday.

Demonstrations Held in Tel Aviv; Al-Tibi Comments

TA0603061294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 6 Mar 94

[Excerpts] Some 25,000 people demonstrated at Malkhey Yisra'el Square in Tel Aviv last night in solidarity with the massacre victims at the Patriarchs Cave. Demonstrators called on the government to evacuate Jews from Hebron, to take steps to renew the peace talks, and to lift the closure on the territories. The demonstration was organized by Peace Now and Arab local council leaders. [passage omitted]

PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat's adviser Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi says the evacuation of Jews from Hebron is a necessary first step to the renewal of peace talks. Al-Tibi was asked by our correspondent Dani Gur-Arye at the demonstration in Tel Aviv last night when the PLO will agree to return to the bargaining table:

[Begin recording] [Al-Tibi] I don't know, it depends on the decisions of the Government of Israel. The most and cardinal issue now is security for Palestinian civilians. It was proven that Palestinians are exposed to attacks by settlers, massacred, and this issue—security for Palestinians—should be immediately treated. Settlements and settlers should be disarmed and dismantled immediately, especially settlements inside the heart of the Palestinian population. This is a good message, a good signal from the people here in Israel, both Jews and Arabs, for the government of Israel, that it should do what she can do to immediately evacuate Jews from inside Hebron as a first step in order to improve the atmosphere for peace talks.

[Gur-Arye] You are talking about the dismantling of settlements, but that certainly isn't a precondition for the renewal of talks.

[Al-Tibi] The massacre created new conditions. Palestinians are exposed now for another massacre. Can anyone guarantee that the Palestinians could not be massacred again? Nobody. That's why we are asking for new guarantees for the Palestinian civilians. The Palestinian leadership is willing to continue the peace talks because it is committed for the peace process, but new circumstances had been created and a new measure should be done immediately. [end recording]

Jordanian Minister Welcomes Cooperation With Israel

JN0703142794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1030 GMT 7 Mar 94

[Report by Shafiq Mansur, from the "With the Midday Events" program]

[Excerpt] In a surprise visit to the Israeli pavilion at the International Tourism Fair in Berlin, Germany, Jordanian Tourism Minister Muhammad al-'Adwan made a statement. He said:

I hope Jordan and Israel will be able to defeat their fundamentalists so that the desired peace between the two countries can be achieved soon. I also hope that after signing the peace treaty between them, it will be possible to execute joint tourism projects that will attract foreign tourists to Israel and Jordan. Businessmen and investors from Jordan are prepared to cooperate with their Israeli counterparts to set up joint ventures to serve the economies and tourist industries of both countries.

The Jordanian minister arrived at the Israeli pavilion at the fair without prior notice. Eli Conel, the director general of the Tourism Ministry was hurriedly summoned to receive the unexpected guest. [passage omitted]

Russia's Ivanov Meets Rabin, Views Peace Talks

LD0303120394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Yegor Ivanov says all sides should return to the Middle East peace talks without preconditions. Ivanov met with Prime Minister Rabin this morning at the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv. Dani Gur-Arye reports:

Prime Minister Rabin and Deputy Foreign Minister Ivanov met for almost an hour in Tel Aviv. Later Ivanov, who recently met with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, told reporters most meetings centered on ways to renew the peace talks:

[Begin Ivanov recording; Ivanov speaks in Russian with superimposed translation into English] In this new situation none of the sides can set preconditions. The best solution is for all sides to return promptly to the talks. [end recording]

Ivanov was asked about criticism Rabin levelled recently at Russia over its attempt to mediate between the sides independently of the United States.

[Begin Ivanov recording] Russia and the United States are the co-sponsors of the Middle East process, and there are ground rules for cooperation. With that, each of the

co-sponsors is free to take its own initiatives as long as the goal is to further the peace talks. [end recording]

Ivanov said he is convinced Russia can help bring the sides back together.

Latvian Premier on Wide Cooperation With Tel Aviv

LD0303191594 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1400 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] As reported earlier in the bulletin, a press conference was held today on an official visit by a Latvian Government delegation to Israel. The head of the delegation, Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs, briefly described it as follows:

[Begin Birkavs recording] The visit to Israel took place in a very complex situation regarding foreign and domestic policy, which has evolved in Israel after the Hebron tragedy when many dozens of people were killed in a sacred place. There were perhaps only small schedule changes during the visit; in general the visit proceeded according to schedule. I think that this is an indicator of Israel's especially favorable attitude and wish to maintain contacts with us on a wide scale.

As far as the main essence of the visit itself, in several words I would characterize it as a new leaf which has been turned over in our mutual relations, a leaf on which we made several significant inscriptions. These inscriptions are an agreement on cooperation in the spheres of education, culture and science, and on promotion and mutual protection of investment.

But all the talks which we held with the Israeli president, the Israeli prime minister, the Israeli foreign minister, and other ministers are practical evidence of the fact that we have very wide possibilities for mutual cooperation. And Israel, if the peace process develops successfully there, will be a country which will develop rapidly. And as we do not have a representation in that region, then the government's plan to open an embassy in Israel—possible in the fall—was received with great understanding and it will be a guarantee that our relations will widen. [end recording]

Mr. Birkavs also reported that during the visit, the Latvian Government delegation received from the Israeli Government an offer for arms sale. Representatives of the Latvian Government also visited a language teaching center in Israel, where they familiarized themselves with the system of teaching Hebrew. As Birkavs said, discussing problems of citizenship in Latvia, representatives of the Israeli Government stressed that the knowledge of the language should be put forward as the main criterion for granting citizenship. A visit by Israeli experts in power engineering and internal affairs to Latvia is also expected soon, as well as a visit by representatives of the Knesset, i.e. parliament.

Islamic Jihad Cell Uncovered in North

TA0403152794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] An Islamic Jihad cell, which tried to obtain weapons, among other things, was uncovered in northern Israel, our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports. He says the cell was uncovered by the Shin Bet and the Bureau for Special Tasks in Ha'amaqim District. Cell members come from Janin and Umm al-Fahm. An Umm al-Fahm resident assisted the cell members in forming ties with arms dealers in the Israeli underworld and obtaining information on Israel. The cell leaders were arrested and their interrogation is continuing.

'Betrayal' Seen in Demand for Hebron Evacuation

TA0703124394 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 7 Mar 94 p 2

[Editorial: "Instigation and Incipient Betrayal"]

[Text] A group of ministers—some say they represent a majority of Rabin's government—has launched an inflammatory campaign against the Jewish settlers in the heart of Hebron and against dozens of Jewish settlements throughout Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. They are demanding that the Jewish settlers be evacuated at once because their presence supposedly fans the flames of hatred between Jews and Arabs and hurts the peace process.

This unbridled incitement against the Jewish settlers, who are being portrayed as an obstacle to peace, totally contradicts the remarks the prime minister made as he signed the agreement with the PLO—namely, that not a single settlement would be evacuated as a result of the implementation of that agreement.

We do not know how much power that ministerial group—the group comprising the Meretz ministers and the left-wing sector of Labor—wields, and we have as yet to hear the prime minister's reaction to the adverse counsel given by these ministers at such a time.

The public pronouncements of that group of ministers are not only uncomplimentary to the prime minister, but they also prove that Yitzhaq Rabin's position within his government has been seriously impaired. He no longer leads; others are trying to lead him toward steps that are utterly discordant with the Zionist doctrine and the political and security needs of the State of Israel.

The initiative of that group of ministers both harms the State of Israel and encourages the PLO and its cohorts to increase the pressure on the Israeli Government to disband the Jewish settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza and to deploy an armed international force in those areas to protect Arab residents whose lives are being threatened by Jewish "terrorists."

Not only is the conduct of these ministers unwise, it indicates an incipient betrayal of the special interests of the entire Israeli nation.

The Jewish settlements throughout Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, including the Jewish presence in the city of Hebron, were established on the basis of incontestable resolutions made by Israeli Governments which acknowledged the right of every single Jew to build his home in any part of Eretz Yisra'el.

Proposing the evacuation of Jewish settlements from Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza is tantamount to proposing a Jewish surrender to Arab terror or, perhaps, to offering the PLO the keys to an independent, 'Arafat-led Palestinian state in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, with East Jerusalem as its capital, on a silver platter.

Ministers doing the PLO's work have no place in the Government of Israel. If the prime minister lacks the power to curb them, he should disband the government and replace it with a government loyal to the people of Israel and to Eretz Yisra'el.

The people of Israel need a government capable of representing its political and security interests with national dignity. It is natural, therefore, that so many people are opposed to the left-wing government, whose acts are more than unwelcome, whose acts jeopardize the well-being and security of the State of Israel.

No Reason for Jewish Presence in Hebron Seen

TA0703130994 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Mar 94 p B1

[Editorial: "Hebron Evacuation on the Agenda"]

[Text] In yesterday's cabinet meeting, many ministers proclaimed their support for the evacuation of the Hebron settlers, but a cabinet resolution, which is needed in principle as well as for tactical purposes, was never endorsed. The Likud, the NRP [National Religious Party], and Moledet are opposed to the evacuation. Moreover, the Tzomet faction, which the prime minister would like to include in the coalition, is "adamantly" opposed to it. There is a polarization of views even in Labor, where Ministers Shetrit and Tzur contest the issue with the doves of the Mashov circle.

Our political situation would have been less calamitous had the government removed the 42 settler families and the 150 yeshiva students from their houses, which are located in the heart of the Arab city, right after the Cave of the Patriarchs massacre and settled them temporarily in Qiryat Arba'.

U.S. and UN representatives have informed the Arabs—the Muslims and the PLO—that they will not allow the Security Council to denounce Israel. The United States will not agree to anything other than a denunciation of the massacre itself. Furthermore, it is not looking forward to sending UN troops to territories administered by Israel. It will be another week before we know for certain whether the United States is a consistent champion of the stand taken by Israel, which agreed to a temporary international or outside presence "to be agreed on" in the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area only.

Since the crime was committed outside Gaza and Jericho, the argument that the United States should "protect the safety of the Palestinians"—namely, everybody—carries some weight. The removal of Jews from Hebron will not satisfy all the anti-Israel demands, which have been aired by exploiting the Security Council as a platform, but it can attenuate their magnitude.

Beyond the problem that has arisen in the UN arena, the permanent Jewish presence in Hebron hampers the PLO's performance in the peace process. Yasir 'Arafat was willing to come to Washington in response to President Clinton's invitation, but he was unable to act on his wishes, and the peace process was discontinued as a result of the majority opinion in the PLO-Tunis directorate. If the Israeli Government wants the PLO leader to be able to impose his authority on his organization and on the Palestinian population in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, it should make a move of its own.

Knesset Member [MK] Eliyahu Ben-Elisar has warned against evacuating the Hebron settlers because it might constitute a precedent for the removal of all the settlements; MK Rehav'am Ze'evi sees the evacuation of Hebron as "the first step toward the annihilation of the Zionist endeavor"; and one settler described the renewed Jewish settlement in Hebron as "the rectifying of old wrongs against the Jews."

They should all be told that Israel did not engage in the Six-Day War in order to take land; the victory should not have been used to annul our historical consent to the partition of the country in 1947. Settling accounts with the Hebron Arabs of 1968 for the crimes their fathers committed in 1929 was a mistake to begin with, and it is certainly a mistake to perpetuate in 1994 an error made 26 years earlier.

Israel does not need a permanent Jewish presence in Hebron for security or any other reason; all it does is cause severe damage. The glory of the Jewish people's spiritual heritage does not lie in the presence of a handful of Jewish families in a few houses owned by Jews in the distant past. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has tasks other than maintaining a vast deployment to protect that handful and stop it from provoking the Arab residents of the city.

Commentary Urges Evacuating Jews From Hebron

TA0803155094 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 8 Mar 94 p B1

[Commentary by Ze'ev Schiff: "On the Path to Conflict"]

[Text] The confrontation, or perhaps even battle, with the settlers in Hebron is only a question of time. It will either come now or in another few months. The question is whether the Government of Israel will decide right away, on the basis of the security situation in the town, to issue an evacuation order against the Jewish inhabitants.

The other possible date for a confrontation is in the summer, as July approaches. According to the Declaration of Principles [DOP], a significant change must take place in the city in another few months. It will be recalled that according to the agreement, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will redeploy no later than on the eve of the elections to the authority (the elections are to take place nine months after the DOP goes into effect). The accord says that "in deploying its military forces, Israel will be guided by the principle that its military forces should be redeployed outside populated areas."

This means that IDF brigades will no longer be deployed in the center of Hebron, just as IDF units will not be able to move around the centers of Nabulus and Gaza, unless our aim is not to implement the accord with the Palestinians. Under the current security situation, there will be no choice but to offer the Hebron settlers the opportunity to move to Qiryat Arba'. If any of the Jewish settlers in Hebron believe that following the massacre in the Cave of the Patriarchs and the frequent humiliation they cause their neighbors, their security will come from the Palestinian police, they are being overly optimistic. Israeli security experts do not share that view.

The reason for the evacuation is therefore one of security rather than politics. When the ministers argue about the Jewish presence in Hebron, most of them base the need to evacuate on security reasons. Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer, who was coordinator of activities in the territories and the military commander of the West Bank, heads the proposal for the evacuation of Hebron and bases it on the need to defend the Jewish residents and not to please the Palestinians in the wake of the Hebron massacre. The ministers who heard the reports by Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq and Major General Dani Yatom, commander of the Central Command, got the impression that they are also worried about the security aspect. The Jews of Hebron have become a target, one of them said. Immediately after the massacre, another security official proposed to evacuate Hebron and Qiryat Arba', even temporarily. He was concerned about the women and children. Everybody listened, but his proposal was not discussed at that stage.

From a military viewpoint, we have reached an absurd situation in Hebron. No precedent for the number of soldiers required to defend the Hebron settlers can be found in the history of border incidents or the defense of any other settlement. The ministers were shocked by the figures quoted by the chief of staff. Although we are in the midst of peace negotiations, the defense of the Hebron settlers is more like war deployment. There are times when numbers are not what counts—for instance, if there were a need to defend Jerusalem. But that is not the case with Hebron, especially since Qiryat Arba' is not far away. A top IDF commander must tell the Hebron settlers candidly that it is very difficult to provide them with the security they expect. If that situation continues, it will not be enough to deploy in the town even a large part of the soldiers serving in the entire West Bank, and there might even be a need to expel Arabs from Hebron.

The forecast of Avraham Ahituv, who was Shin Bet chief in the late 1970's and before that headed its Arab Department, is being realized. In the 1970's, some of the settlers began to infiltrate into Arab Hebron without permission. Some took unbridled actions even back then. Until that time, the situation between the two populations had been relatively calm. Ahituv came to Prime Minister Menahem Begin and told him that he was worried about "the infiltration into Hebron." He told Begin that we had arrived at a modus vivendi in the Cave of the Patriarchs and that there were good foundations for coexistence, but that the infiltration into Hebron might cause problems, for the security forces as well. He told Begin that this is what will hurt his party's basic tenet that Jews and Arabs can live together in peace under Israeli rule in Eretz Yisra'el. The entry into Hebron will only increase the friction and hatred, and clashes will become unavoidable.

I dare to guess that if Rabin were told that the Hebron settlers would leave now of their own free will, he would welcome it. He is not pleased that the proposal was raised by ministers, because this may hurt the negotiations. At least two ministers are ready to discuss evacuating the settlers from Hebron within the framework of the negotiations with the Palestinians. At least another eight ministers are prepared to support an Israeli-initiated evacuation.

The Americans view it from a different angle. They are concerned about 'Arafat's growing weakness, the risk to the peace negotiations, and the inadequate steps Israel took following the massacre. In their view, Israel must immediately make a unilateral move to put the talks back on track. The evacuation of Hebron for security reasons would be such an example, and their representatives are showing interest in it. Rabin will definitely be asked about it during his visit to Washington.

But even the Americans, like the Palestinians, understand that you cannot ask Refa'el Eytan to join the coalition and, with the same breath, order the evacuation of the Jewish settlers from Hebron.

Commentary Views Situation Since Hebron Attack

TA0403151894 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 4 Mar 94 p B1

[Commentary by Yo'el Marcus: "Five Comments on the Situation"]

[Text]

1. Is Only Their Blood Sacred?

A single individual committed a massacre, and an entire country went down on its knees asking for forgiveness. One person committed a horrendous crime, and each one of us feels the blood on his hands. When it comes to pogroms, we—the experienced victims—know all there is to know about them. When the government asks for the forgiveness of the families, the Palestinian nation, and the whole world, it really represents every Israeli citizen. We, however, do not make do with a stately, official apology and a willingness to compensate the victims' families. Public figures—the chief rabbi, the president of the state, cabinet ministers, delegations, party representatives—extended their condolences in person. It seems to me that this has gone as far as to be groveling. Although only one person committed the act, and although the situation could have been reversed, it is good thah the Israelis, as individuals and as a collective, feel the need to apologize.

So what is bothering me? I am disturbed by the fact that in the dozens of years in which Arabs have been slaughtering innocent Jews—the Shafrir children (1956), the children of Avivim, the Munich athletes, the Coastal Road victims, the worshipers at the Istanbul and Paris synagogues, the passengers of planes and buses; all those innocent old men, women, and children who were shot, stabbed, slaughtered, and blown up in their homes, in market places, and while walking down a street—not a single Arab has asked for our forgiveness. How could it be that through all those years there was not a single Arab on the other side—leader, professor, spiritual leader, Arab "Peace Now" activist—who expressed remorse for the murder of innocent Jews? Is their blood more sacred than ours?

2. Waiting for Slaughter

Our asking for forgiveness may be good for our conscience and our international image, but I doubt that it will in any way change the Arabs' deep feeling of hatred for Jews.

What transpired in the Israeli Arab sector will be dwarfed by the events that will take place when the closures and curfews imposed on the territories are lifted. Brace yourselves for bloody riots and a series of acts of revenge. We live in a part of the world where blood vengeance is the way to settle accounts. We must be prepared for a series of attacks against Jews. It is no accident that the authors of the Oslo agreement walk around with ashen faces these days. Suddenly it has become apparent that the conflict is twofold: political and religious.

While we are handling the political aspect of the conflict, the abyss between the fanatics of both religions is widening. Arab statesmen are willing to recognize the existence of Israel. The problem is that the Muslim movements recognize neither Israel nor the Arab statesmen who do. Perhaps a major act of revenge—something like a massacre in a synagogue—will allow the resumption of the talks. Nevertheless, as long as the Islamic movement on the other side and the religious zealots on our side set the tone, peace will never come anywhere near being a profitable enterprise.

3. Is Yafo Burning?

The U.S. State Department travel advisory recommending that U.S. citizens refrain from entering Nazareth and Yafo is surprising and annoying. I suggest that the U.S. Administration start showing concern for the wellbeing of American in Washington D.C., New York, and Detroit—the main centers of violence in the United States—before it fans the flames here and kills our tourism season. Yafo is not burning yet, but what took place among the Arab residents there is a time bomb. I must admit that I did not know they hate us that much there, that so much hatred has accumulated there.

No one had expected the Israeli Arabs to be Zionists. It is only natural that they stage demonstration in sympathy for their brethren across the Green Line. But the fact that they smashed windows of Jewish shops, overturned and burned cars, threw rocks at the police, hoisted Palestinian flags, and chanted PLO slogans and songs of revenge against Jews—and not just one day, but for four consecutive days—calls for the following question: Do these Israeli citizens regard themselves part of the future Palestinian entity? One could even consider exchanging populations: bring in the settlers, and allow the Israeli Arabs join their brothers in the territories. After all, the idea of driving to Yafo for a seafood dinner only to find that your car has been gutted is not very appealing in the long run. It is enough that we are on the verge of a state-wide civil war; we do not need war between residents of central Israel in the heart of Tel Aviv.

4. And Now, a Defense Minister

Yitzhaq Rabin—prime minister, health minister, religious affairs minister, and interior minister—is yet to regret that he also held on to the defense portfolio. The commission of inquiry, headed by Me'ir Shamgar, will most probably work along the lines of the letter of appointment it was issued. Coming from a security background of 20 years of Army service, Shamgar will most probably stay within the restricted limits he was given. He may stop at the sentry, the major, or the brigade commander. Such commissions of inquiry, however, have a vitality of their own, even after they end their work and disband. Such commissions may stop at a certain point, but the conclusions they reach keep growing branches and treetops. The Agranat Commission [which investigated the Yom Kippur War] stopped with the chief of staff, but after the commission broke up, the public ruled that the defense minister and the prime minister were to blame.

Even if the current commission does not go as far as the defense minister, we will not be surprised if he finds himself in the shadow of his ministerial responsibility.

Also, the stages of the arrangement with the Palestinians will be very complex because of the security arrangements, and so closely linked with clashes with the Jewish settlers and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], that we will not only need a full-time prime minister; we will also need a full-time defense minister. Rabin had better part with the role he loves so much, and appoint a defense minister at this time to cut the link between the moves called for now and the Shamgar commission conclusions.

5. Home Alone

Stopping the talks was an idiotic move by Yasir 'Arafat. Perhaps he wants to calm spirits in the territories, and perhaps he is waiting for a "counter massacre" which will allow him to return to the talks on a seemingly equal basis. Luckily for him, Rabin believes that when terror acts take place, the dialogue process must be accelerated because if we stop the talks after every painful attack, we will get nowhere.

I hope 'Arafat is not serious in his demand that the Document of Principles be reopened; or in his call for an international force to be stationed in the territories; or in his demand that we agree to begin discussing the uprooting of the settlements and disarming the settlers as a precondition for his returning to the talks. Rabin does not accept any of the changes—not because he does not want to, but because he cannot do this with the minority-based government he is heading.

'Arafat is also wrong in expecting a deeper U.S. involvement in the political process. The days of the Nixon-Kissinger, Carter-Vance, Reagan-Shultz, Bush-Baker point-by-point involvement are gone. Clinton only cares for the United States and so far, the administration has shown no desire to step in with both its feet into our swamp. There seems to be no strong secretary of state in sight who could push us to deal with our affairs. 'Arafat has no alternative: He and Rabin were left home alone.

Commentary: U.S. Leaning Toward Israel Harms Peace

TA0703175394 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Mar 94 p B1

[Commentary by 'Aqiva Eldar: "T

wriggle out of the Israeli and U.S. bear hug. A member of the Jordanian cabinet was invited to Washington to give the date of the Amman conference that is supposed to bring together thousands of company directors. A different delegation searched for escape routes from the trilateral forum which emerged at the Clinton-Hasan-Peres meeting at the White House. Soon, economic and environmental experts will drag themselves to Oman or Qatar, or perhaps Tunis, for anothJr round of multilaterals. Morocco did not know how to get out of the desertification conference initiated by Peres and Vice President Al Gore. It can be assumed that Goldstein solved the problem for them.

Since 13 September, U.S. Administration spokesmen have been reiterating the three targets they have taken upon themselves. First: advancement toward a comprehensive peace, or in other words, bridging the gaps between Israel and Syria. Second, recruiting the international community to rehabilitate the inhabitants of the territories so that the Palestinians believe that peace pays. Third, improving relations between the Arab states and Israel, mainly through efforts to lift the Arab boycott so that Israelis find that peace pays. Next week will be six months since the signing ceremony at the White House. What is left? Syria and Israel are more or less treading water. The Clinton-al-Asad summit meeting was wasted, and the Palestinians learned that it is much easier to exploit people under occupation than to rehabilitate them.

The most striking achievement of U.S. diplomacy since the Madrid conference was the public relations campaign for the Declaration of Principles among the Jews, especially in America. Several minor Arab leaders who understood that Clinton would owe them a favor, made the Israelis several small gestures. The Americans, with their faulty understanding of inter-Arab politics, continued to exert pressure. They wanted the Arabs to lift the embargo even before the first Israeli soldier leaves Gaza, and pleaded with al-Asad to shake hands with Yitzhaq Rabin, although the latter tied himself to the Golan Heights through a referendum. President Clinton is urging King Husayn to accept Israeli leaders in Amman before a single uprooted family is returned to Ramallah and while Kahanists imported from America run around in Hebron as if they own the place.

another White House announcement: The entire telephone conversation between Clinton and the family of the yeshiva student wounded in Brooklyn. And after that, more good news: The federal official in charge of U.S. heritage abroad announced that Ukranian President Leonid Kravchuk took time off in Washington to sign an agreement to look after the synagogues and Jewish cemeteries in his country.

On the other hand, leaders of the Arab lobby in the United States who have repeatedly requested a meeting with the President since the massacre, have so far been turned down. A group of Arab activists in the "Builders for Peace" movement, another level in the upside down pyramid of the peace process, had to settle for a meeting with the vice president. It was reported that he was "pleasantly surprised with their good manners."

The signs of friendship are touching, but the problem of the moment is the difficulty of building a peace process credible to both sides on such a transparent leaning toward Israel by the sole mediator.

King Husayn Leaves for Pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia

JN0803114794 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn left Amman for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia this morning to perform the minor pilgrimage on the blessed al-Qadr night [the night on which the koran was revealed] and visit the tomb of Prophet Muhammad, God's peace and blessings be upon him.

The king was seen off by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, Senate President Ahmad al-Lawzi, House of Representatives Speaker Tahir al-Masri, his majesty's Political Adviser Marwan al-Qasim, his majesty's adviser Dr. Khalid al-Karaki, the crown prince's private adviser, the deputy prime minister, the deputy prime minister and higher education minister, some ministers, the Saudi charge d'affaires in Amman, the chief of the Royal Household, the secretary general of the Royal Court, his majesty's adviser for tribal affairs, and other officials.

His majesty is accompanied by His Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-al-Husayn, Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, Royal Court Chief al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Bin-Zayd, his majesty's military adviser Prince Talal Bin-Muhammad, His Highness Prince Ghazi Bin-Muhammad, his majesty's Private Secretary Prince 'Ali Bin-Nayif, a number of the nobility, his majesty's advisers, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the Hashemite family imam.

Five Arrested in Connection With Explosions

JN0803111194 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic 9 Mar 94 p 1

[Text] The security organs have recently carried out a limited search campaign in the village of Abu-Nusayr and al-Baq'ah camp and arrested five persons on suspicion of connection with recent explosions and Jordanian Afghans. One of those arrested is called 'Ali Ahmad 'Iqab.

'Source' Gives Details of 'Afghan Jordanians' Case

PM0403164594 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Mar 94 p 1

[Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—A Jordanian official source has announced that the results of the interrogation of the detainees held in connection with the case of the explosions and assassinations plot in Jordan necessitated more arrests of suspects linked to the 23 detainees known as "Afghan Arabs" and confiscation of arms kept in their hideouts.

The source told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the prosecutor of the Jordanian State Security Court, which handles cases affecting state security, expected the number of the detainees to increase, and that a number of Kalashnikov machine guns, explosives, and pistols were found in the posession of the accused and in some hideouts in Amman.

Disclosing some details about the detainees, the source said that they had all gone to Afghanistan via a third state, that some of them received training there for three months on various types of weapons, and that the detainees did not know one another but they did know their leader and commander who is also now under detention with them.

The source added that they operated in small cells with one secret official in charge and that they did not give their organization any name because they did not want such a name to circulate and eventually lead to their exposure.

He said that they had confessed that they all belonged to one group which had one leader who is now detained with them, and that they used to arrange their travel to Afghanistan through individuals returning from Afghanistan who would supply them with air tickets and addresses to go to in other states, and that they would stay at some relief home [Bayt i'ashah] until someone came to provide them with the necessary information and requirements after which they would go to Afghanistan.

They emphasized in their confessions that had worked for the elimination of vice which, to them, meant movie theaters, video cassettes, bars, and shops which sell alcoholic drinks. They also confessed that they had planned to assassinate Jordanian and Palestinian prominent civilian and military figures, and that their actions were also aimed against the current peace process and geared toward preventing the conclusion of peace agreements with Israel. The Jordanian source expected the investigation to be completed and the entire case to be referred to the Jordanian State Security Court around the middle of this current month.

The recent explosion in the Salwa movie theater in the town of al-Zarqa', in which Egyptian citizen 'Id al-Jahhalin (the man who planted the bomb) was injured and had his two legs and one finger in his left hand amputated, enabled the Jordanian authorities to lay their hands on the first strings of the case.

Al-Jahhalin confessed that his task was only to plant the detonator in the timer of the explosive device which included four coconut-shaped bombs.

Al-Jahhalin, who is now at al-Zarqa' government hospital, said that he regretted what he did.

Editorial: U.S. Encourages Israel's 'Terrorist Policy'

JN0503085094 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 5 Mar 94 pp 1, 18

[Editorial: "Washington Is Behind the Obstruction of Negotiations"]

[Text] The U.S. Administration, which is called the sponsor of the peace process, should have responsibly taken the initiative to have the Security Council issue a strong resolution to curb Zionist persistence in launching mass killings, committing hideous crimes, carrying out bloody massacres against Arab citizens, and violating their places of worship in the occupied territories. Instead, the U.S. Administration has done its best to prevent the issuance of any deterrent international resolution which would end the crimes committed by Jews.

While several Security Council members, including Britain, France, and Russia, believe in the need to pass a resolution that provides protection for the Palestinian people under Israeli occupation, for dispatching an international protection force to the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, and for disarming the Jewish settlers, the U.S. Administration is trying to foil this approach and prevent the issuance of any resolution in this regard.

Moreover, the U.S. Administration is working to contain the strained Arab-Israeli negotiations and deflate angry Palestinian, Arab, and international reactions by inviting a Palestinian delegation to Washington and trying to convince it of the need to unconditionally resume negotiations with Israel and to stop demanding the issuance of an international resolution against Israel.

Negotiations between the U.S. Administration and the Palestinian side are still continuing without results. What draws attention is the fact that this U.S. role, which encourages Israel and its terrorist policy, has also encouraged Israeli authorities to continue their hideous crimes against Arab citizens. Several martyrs and a many wounded fall every day. Israeli authorities deliberately prevent Muslims from performing prayers at the blessed al-Aqsa Mosque and other places of worship, which paralyzes and obstructs the peace process.

If the U.S. Administration insists on encouraging Israel to adhere to the arming of settlers and rejecting the dispatch of an international protection force to the occupied Palestinian territories, then it will have contributed to the obstruction of the peace process.

It makes no sense to resume the Palestinian-Israeli and Arab-Israeli negotiations while the campaign of mass killings is escalating against the Palestinian people. It can be said that if the U.S. Administration actually wants to resume the peace process and achieve peace, it should stop encouraging Israel and end its full bias toward Israel. This administration should also participate in passing an international resolution to ensure protection for the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

Editorial Says 'No Coincidence' Goldstein Raised in U.S.

JN0303114194 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 3 Mar 94 pp 1, 25

[Editorial: "Annihilation Way Toward Peace!"]

[Text] Most of us cannot understand how the Ramadan massacre at the Ibrahimi Mosque could open the road to peace, nor can we understand how each massacre will remove an obstacle facing a settlement we all have been talking about and believe is achieving big victories that are late but almost close at hand.

We realize the annihilation of the Palestinian people will enable the Israeli entity to achieve the peace it wants. We realize that the annihilation of Muslims in Yugoslavia makes peace the right of those the Westerners call Bosnian Serbs. We also realize that the continuation of the racist embargo of the Iraqi people will lead to the death of all the Iraqis. Through this, international legitimacy—the respect for which the United States is seeking to impose on the enemies of Washington to the exclusion of all others—would be achieved.

The Americans are the only ones who can make peace in the Middle East. By virtue of the fact that the Americans have a strategic alliance with the Israelis, the anticipated peace will be one that achieves the interests of both allies. Moreover, when Goldstein, the hero of the Ramadan massacre, sees that the world is applauding the killers in Somalia, Yugoslavia, and Iraq, then it is natural for him to consider those killers—who are slaughtering people in the name of protecting them and are launching wars of annihilation under the pretext of defending international legitimacy—as his model. It is no coincidence that Goldstein should have been born and raised in America and have a Zionist behavior and mentality. Such a combination is what produced the killers in Baghdad, Mogadishu, and Sarajevo and before that in the capitals of South America and Southeast Asia.

Those who are talking about opening the road to peace via the slaughtering of Palestinians are talking about a policy that satisfies the new world order but does not satisfy the sentiment of millions of Arabs, whose Islam and Christianity as well as their basic rights, foremost of which is their right to live, are fought by Zionism and its allies. The United Nations, which refuses to condemn the Zionist crime, is not to blame, because there are those among us who, since the first moment of the massacre, have been seeking to acquit the Israeli Government and Army and lay all the blame on one settler called Goldstein without any reference to his many accomplices.

Those who are laying all this blame on Goldstein are demanded to respect the blood of martyrs if they do not want to respect the peoples' intelligence. They are also demanded to frankly read the files of Yitzhaq Rabin and Shim'on Peres, in the chest of each of whom dwell one hundred Goldsteins. Zionist extremism and the desire to

liquidate and wipe out all Palestinian people in order to achieve peace are not the ideas and behavior of one settler. They are the ideas and behavior of an entire entity that was brought up under Western imperialism, specifically U.S. imperialism. Here it is practicing what this imperialism has been practicing since the beginning of this century. The international community, which is watching our annihilation with all this bias, will not secure protection for the Palestinians by sending a few hundred international observers.

Former Brotherhood Member Assails Leadership

JN0703155594 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 7 March 94 p 4

[Report by Nasir 'Arif]

[Text] Ziyad Abu-Ghanimah [former Islamic Action Front leader] has strongly attacked the Muslim Brotherhood, accusing the group of arrogance in dealing with those who work in the Islamic field.

He charged that, for the last 45 years, the group has failed to develop from the domination of individuals, differing from one leader to another, to collective institutional action based on established plans, bylaws, and restrictions that are not influenced by changes in posts or the officials in charge.

Abu-Ghanimah criticized the Muslim Brotherhood leadership, of which he used to be a member, because of their recent decision to exclude him from the organization and because of their refusal to hold a frank dialogue with him in order to serve the march of the group itself.

In a lecture at the Shuman Foundation entitled "Views and Experience in the Islamic Movement," he said: I had hoped that the brotherhood leaders would consider me the devil himself and come to hold talks with me, especially since they know that even Almighty God talked to the condemned Satan. How can they refrain from having a dialogue with someone who was a member of the Muslim Brotherhood before some of them were even born?

He said: I still invite them for an open dialogue anywhere and at any time they decide in order that the whirlpool of secret instructions and statements that, in most cases, lack truth and objectivity will end.

Following this, Abu-Ghanimah began to review his experience in the Muslim Brotherhood since late 1940's, when Jordan was—like all eastern Arab states—full of nationalist feelings against colonialism and Zionist ambitions and when parties drew the masses into these parties by transferring their nationalist feelings. He said he first joined the Arab Muslim Youths Party, which combined the principles of the Muslim Brotherhood and the Ba'th Party. That experience did not last for long, and he then joined the Muslim Brotherhood due to his religious leanings and his admiration for the convoys of Muslim Brotherhood mujahidin who were participating in jihad against Jews in Palestine.

Abu-Ghanimah noted that, after more than 45 years of experience, he feels that he is dutybound and that it is in the interest of the Islamic movement, particularly the Muslim Brotherhood, to make this review, through which he will present the fruit of his personal experience within the group. He stressed that, before this review, we should be aware of the following:

- We, as Muslims, have no doubt that the great Islam and its commendable teachings are infallible and everything else is fallible. In other words, no Muslim or Islamic movement—leaders or members—can claim they are infallible.

- Consequently, the Muslims—movements and individuals—may be right or may be wrong. Therefore, there is no harm if an Islamic movement admits its mistakes when it is wrong. This will raise its position among the masses and reinforce their confidence in it. However, the leadership who lacks confidence in its cadres and masses is the one that fears to reveal its mistakes.

- Addressing the negative points of, or the mistakes committed by, the Islamic Movement—the Muslim Brotherhood—does not at all imply vengeance or slander, as some claim. It is not aimed at inciting its enemies against it. Addressing the negative points is geared primarily toward the interest of the group and does not go beyond the self-criticism known in Islam during the era of Prophet Muhammad and his companions.

Abu-Ghanimah noted that it is fair to acknowledge that his experiences within the Muslim Brotherhood contain a great many positive points as well, thanks to God first; to his adherence to the teachings of Islam; to teaching thousands of youths, men, and women on the path of Islam; to reviving the call for Islam at the beginning of the century; and to enlightening the Muslims on their decisive issues.

Abu-Ghanimah then touched on the negative points he registered throughout his time as a member of the Muslim Brotherhood.

We should be brave and admit that the Brotherhood's experience in Jordan has not been perfect and we should admit the mistakes. We should not hide behind the argument that every movement keeps secrets to conceal its negative aspects and mistakes. These negative aspects, which I recorded though my experience with the Muslim Brotherhood, can be summed up in the following points:

- One of the most complicated problems facing the Muslim Brotherhood is the fact that it lacks an authoritative reference to record the history of the group from the time it was founded in 1944 until now.

- The group lacks a system to assess its march in the various phases. Throughout the 45 years of its life, not a

single study to appraise its progress has been conducted for any of the phases through which the group in Jordan had passed. This is a major shortcoming because an appraisal every now and then will reveal the positive and negative aspects and serve the group's march.

- Members of the group will not accept any criticism of them or their group, whether that criticism comes from a friend or a foe, to the extent that they consider any criticism against their group to be directed against Islam itself.

- The group deals with other people working in the field of Islamic action in a patronizing and arrogant manner. It wants them to be subordinates and not comrades in the march to serve Islam. This negative aspect, which the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan is still facing, explains the gap between the group and their Muslim brothers in other groups.

- Throughout the 45 years of its life, the group has failed to institutionalize its action. This means it failed to transform group actions from an individualistic basis, which may differ from one leadership to another, into institutionalized actions that are based on mission-oriented institutions that do not change with the change in leadership positions or the persons responsible for the Brotherhood's work. All attempts to change the Brotherhood's work from individual efforts into institutionalized ones have failed.

- Despite the importance of the media in the missionary, intellectual, political, and social work of the group, the Muslim Brotherhood failed to follow a clear media policy with a practical mechanism that depends on an institutional media organ to cover the requirements of the group in the media field.

- In addition to the weak performance of the Muslim Brotherhood in the field of education and the increasing daring in slandering one another, the phenomenon of loyalty to individuals, rather than to the Islamic call or to the group, has prevailed. It is important to note as well the group's tendency to make decisions that please the decisionmakers. Many decisions made by the group leadership proceeded from personal whims and were not in the interest of the group.

Abu-Ghanimah concluded his lecture by saying that his frankness will anger some and please others, noting that he will not be swayed by angry responses since he believes that he is telling the truth. He said: I advise the small clique in the leadership, who will not appreciated my words, to react to what I said by thinking long and hard about these negative aspects, to study them, to discuss their causes, and to rectify them. If they fail to correct matters they should leave their jobs before the problems increase and the situation worsens.

At the end of the lecture, Dr. As'ad 'Abd-al-Rahman, moderator of the symposium, opened a dialogue between the lecturer and the audience. Abu-Ghanimah said the negative points he mentioned are the ones that he can address publicly, adding that the members of the group themselves are talking about many other things. This frank talk will not please many members of the group. He added that there are many things that must be kept within the group.

Asked if this public criticism of the Muslim Brotherhood will develop the performance of the group and help it continue its march, Abu-Ghanimah said: This should render the group a great service of which it has been in need for the last 45 years.

'Sources' Say UK Continuing To Sell Weapons

TA0703062694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 7 Mar 94

[Text] French military sources say Syria is continuing to equip itself with weapons of mass destruction. According to the sources, who spoke with Qol Yisra'el's Paris correspondent, Britain is continuing to sell Damascus arms despite an official embargo on all such sales.

European Union Delegation in Damascus for Talks

Meets With al-Shar'

JN0503215694 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2115 GMT 5 Mar 94

[Excerpt] An official round of talks was held this evening at the Foreign Ministry between Syria and the European Union [EU]. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' led the Syrian team and Mr. Karolos Papoulias, the Greek foreign minister, whose country holds the current presidency of the EU, led the European side. The talks were also joined by EU Commissioner General Hans Van den Broek; Yusuf Shakkur, Syria's assistant foreign minister; and the directors of the Economic Department, Western Europe Department, and the Information Department. For the EU side, the meeting was also attended by Mr. (Khristos Zakharakis), director general of the Greek Foreign Ministry; the director general of bilateral relations at the ministry; and Mr. (Sham Kunwa), an ambassador at the EU; and Mr. Yeorios Yennimatas, the Greek ambassador in Damascus.

Discussions reviewed Middle East developments in light of the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre and its serious implications for the situation in the occupied Arab territories, the region, and the peace process.

Mr. al-Shar' pointed to the unending obstacles Israel places in the path of peace, and its lack of seriousness in the search for a fair and comprehensive peace in the region. Europe's potential role in the peace process and Syrian-EU cooperation was also discussed. [passage omitted]

Received by al-Asad

JN0603174694 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 6 Mar 94

[Text] At 1230 today, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received Greek Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias, current chairman of the European Union [EU], and the delegation accompanying him. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the Greek ambassador attended.

Papoulias handed a letter to the president from Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou dealing with the peace process and bilateral relations. Papoulias expressed the condolences of the EU Council of Ministers on the death of Staff Major Basil al-Asad. Talks then centered on the peace process in the region, as well as the EU delegation's mission on its current tour.

President al-Asad stressed Syria's support for the peace process despite Israel's unserious stand on the peace process and despite doubts about Israel's seriousness. The president also recalled that Syria has repeatedly called for an active European role to help the peace process achieve progress.

The EU delegation, which was headed by Greek Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias, current chairman of the EU, and which included EU Commissioner General Hans Van den Broek, left Damascus this afternoon after a two-day visit to Syria. They was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur, several senior Foreign Ministry officials, and the Greek ambassador in Damascus and the embassy staff.

In a statement to SANA correspondent, Papoulias said: My visit to Syria was very constructive and positive. I met with President Hafiz al-Asad in my capacity as chairman of the EU Council of Ministers. I also met with Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. A cordial and warm atmosphere prevailed in all these meetings. He added: At these meetings we discussed a series of issues, foremost of which is the situation in the region, the possibility of promoting the peace process, and EU- Syrian relations. Papoulias also said: In my capacity as Greece's foreign minister, we discussed bilateral relations. The results of these talks were very good, and I will convey the concepts and views of the Syrian leaders to my colleagues, the foreign ministers of the EU member states. All these views are very important and will help us make decisions at the EU regarding future steps we will take.

Paper Comments on Talks

JN0703085194 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 7 Mar 94

[Text] TISHRIN comments on the visit of the European Unity delegation to Damascus and President Hafiz al-Asad's emphasis, during his reception of the delegation, of Syria's support for the peace process despite doubts about Israeli seriousness on this process.

TISHRIN says: Welcoming any European or international effort to activate the peace process, we reaffirm that peace is a collective interest, and that the conditions and bases of peace must be responded to in a positive and constructive spirit. The paper notes that Europe has come to realize that peace cannot be achieved under the continued Israeli occupation and that partial agreements and separate deals cannot lead to lasting peace. Europe has also come to realize that no peace is possible under the continued Israeli terrorism, massacres, and crimes.

TISHRIN says: Undoubtedly, when it denounces all those Israeli anti-peace practices, Europe stresses its

demands and calls for the establishment of a just, comprehensive peace. Naturally, these demands and denunciations of Israeli practices should be linked to practical stands and measures leading to an active and effective European role to help Arabs restore their rights and territories and to halt the Israeli massacres.

Concluding its editorial, TISHRIN says: Europe should move to assume its political responsibilities toward the situation in the region, including the issue of a just, comprehensive peace, and the enforcement of the resolutions of the international legitimacy, which primarily call for Israel's full withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

Israeli MK Denies Carrying 'Political Message'

JN0703171194 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1555 GMT 7 Mar 94

[Text] Damascus, 7 Mar (SANA)—A delegation of Palestinian Arab personalities, led by [Member of the Israeli Knesset, MK] 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah arrived in Damascus from Cairo this afternoon to offer condolences on the death of Staff Major Basil al-Asad.

The delegation was received at the Damascus International Airport by Khalid al-Fahum, head of the Palestinian National Salvation Front, and Muhammad Walid Hammamiyah, the governor of Damascus.

In a statement to journalists, Darawshah expressed happiness to be in Syria, his second homeland, this Arab country known for its history, deep roots, heroism, and sacrifices for the Palestine question and the Arab nation.

He said: We have come to offer sincere condolences to His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and his family, to the Syrian Government, and to the fraternal Syrian people whose positions we greatly appreciate. This is the main objective of the visit to Syria, and we thank the Syrian Government, led by President al-Asad, for allowing us to enter the Syrian land. This is something we are proud of.

Answering a question, Darawshah said: We are not carrying any political message and we do not represent any official stance in Israel. We represent the Palestinians in the Galilee, in the Negev, and other cities. We are proud to be a part of the Palestinian people. Our visit to Syria today entrenches our affiliation to this deep-rooted nation. We have not bowed and our heads remain high, and we are proud of our homeland and of our Arab and Palestinian affiliation.

Answering another question, Darawshah said: We have not come here for negotiations but to offer condolences. This is our noble objective.

In reply to another question, Darawshah said: The horrible massacre that took place in the Ibrahimi Mosque, and the subsequent suppression and atrocities, have increased the number of Palestinian martyrs and injured, and aggravated the situation. The Israeli Government is responsible for this escalation. The Israeli Government should embark on practical measures to prevent the continuation of settlers' aggressions against the Palestinians by disarming these settlers and removing the settlements from the occupied Arab territories.

Concluding his statement, Darawshah said: Our position has always been the same as the position of the Palestinians, and this position is identical with the Syrian position and the Arab position in general. We want to end the occupation and we support an independent Palestinian state on Palestinian soil, and we call for full withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and from the Syrian Golan, which we consider an inseparable part of Syria.

Before leaving Cairo, Darawshah said: We, as part of the Palestinian people and the Arab nation, decided that it is a pan-Arab and humanitarian duty to offer condolences to President Hafiz al-Asad on the death of his son Basil.

Khaddam Receives Lebanese Prime Minister

NC0603073894 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 6 Mar 94

[Text] The Lebanese question moved to Syria yesterday, where Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri met with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam over an Iftar banquet held in al-Hariri's honor. According to unconfirmed reports from Damascus, the prime minister, who stayed the night in Syria, may meet with President Hafiz al-Asad before returning to Beirut today.

Al-Asad Thanks People, Eulogizes Late Son

JN0803071594 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 2054 GMT 7 Mar 94

[Address by President Hafiz al-Asad thanking the Syrian people for their expressions of sympathy on the death of his son, Basil, in Damascus on 7 Mar—live or recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Beloved citizens, I address you today to express my love and to thank you for everything you have shown over the past days in terms of your sincere emotions and condolences over the painful loss of the late Basil.

From the day when Basil left this earth to face his creator, I have been constantly preoccupied with two things: Basil's departure and your sensitive and noble stand and sentiments, which covered the entire country, filled every town and village, and clearly manifested itself all over our land. This remarkable phenomenon, with its national and human dimensions, attracted the attention of people outside the country. It won appreciation and admiration in terms of its noble and sincere meaning and its manifestation of national unity. Sincere people who are cohesive in weal and woe, in happy and

sad times, are always able to build their country, develop their life, and realize, defend, and preserve their aspirations.

I have been engrossed by two things from the very beginning. One was Basil's departure, because I am a father and any father is pained by the death of his son. However, I was not saddened only because he was my son. He possessed many talents, capabilities, and characteristics that surfaced in him from his childhood and grew over the years and reached an advanced stage of ripeness, firmness, and clarity. At this advanced stage and at 32, the peak of his youth and activity, Basil left this life, his people, and homeland. I am not going to enumerate his talents and capabilities. This may be done at a later time. Basil left many friends and comrades who knew and lived with him and who knew a lot about him. However, they did not know him as his father did who lived with him for 32 years.

Basil had a pure, spotless, and unambiguous nationalist upbringing. The homeland is sacred. It deserves more than anything else all kinds of supreme sacrifices. This is a fateful, moral, human, and religious issue that does not wane and grow as time poasses, but remains as constant as time and as strong as the continuity of life on earth. It is a cause that is above all other causes and whose justice is above all other types of justice, a cause that makes everything that serves it an accepted possibility and a duty. It is the homeland whose air we breath, whose water we drink, and whose food we eat. In light of all this, love and unity grow among its homeland.

Hence, and stemming from this concept, Basil loved his mates, friends, and fellow citizens. From this concept came Basil's optimism and confidence in the future of the homeland and people. Thus, he loved benevolent deeds and loved to serve both the people and the public interest.

Basil reacted with the community and loved the people. He was a brother of each youth in this homeland and a faithful friend of each citizen who actively worked to serve everyone. Basil did this whenever an opportunity was available, whenever he could support a man in need or anyone who was done an injustice, and whenever he could stand against those who did injustice to others and encroached on others' rights, directly or indirectly.

All this and much more attracted me to both Basil and his departure. What attracted me much to you, beloved brothers, was your great stand, your great sympathy and the extension of condolences, and your understanding that the event was a general one and that it concerned everyone. Your understanding was correct and embodied nobility, faithfulness, and patriotism.

Beloved ones, we have long reciprocated love and shared concerns and burdens. We will continue to do so as long as we are alive, so our coming generations will inherit our humanitarian, social, and national values, with God's help. What relieved the sorrow was your genuine sympathy—men, women, and children. This was the source of real consolation.

Brothers and sons, the true sentiments you have shown are beyond description. I can find no words to express my impressions about what I saw, sensed, and heard in the past days. I wish I could shake hands and talk to you, one by one, in order to express to each of you my gratitude and appreciation for this great stand. However, you know that the time factor and vast distances would preclude this.

I was unequivocally confident that your sentiments toward me were genuine. Through your deep sympathy for the painful event which took place, you once again confirmed the genuine character of our great people, who have always proved this character on all occasions, whether happy or sad. This has consolidated and further entrenched national unity. As I always say, national unity is our sharpest and most important weapon in confronting all challenges and calamities of life.

What I saw with my own eyes when we left home on our way to the airport to take the body to the burial ground embodied the meaning that I have mentioned. From my home to the airport, people gathered along both sides of the road. Nobody gathered them there. Nobody, including members of the household among whom Basil lived, knew what time we were to leave because the departure time was connected with a number of details. The people who gathered along the streets were not spectators. Sadness was clear on the faces of everyone, men and women. They were either crying or raising their hands in prayer. In more than one place, I saw a number of men collapse on the ground.

These sad and grave scenes all along the road made our souls more sublime. Deep sadness engenders strength and determination to be patient as if this is the purport of God's wisdom when he counseled patience and brought good tidings to the patient.

With this faith, I faced the disaster when I was informed of it by the minister of defense, the chief of staff, and the foreign minister who came to my house. Everyone of you can imagine the impact of such a shock. After they answered my queries, I told them: God be praised. God has given and God has taken. Basil's demise is a great loss. One of them said it was a national loss. I said: That is what I think. Let us rely on God.

The slogans which were raised everywhere, repeating phrases such as: We Are All Basil, We Are all Your Sons, have left deep, and immense impression on our hearts. Rest assured that I share this feeling with you from the bottom of my heart. For me, each citizen in this country is either a son or a brother, just like Basil. We are one big family and you are all my sons and brothers of whom I am very proud and on whose originality, zeal, and boldness I rely when the need arises.

I send my sincerest love, thanks, and appreciation to all of you, beloved citizens, men and women, at home and abroad; party members and officials of parties and of state; officers and NCO's in the Armed Forces; men of religion and ulema; members of popular, professional organizations, and trade unions; university professors, teachers, and students; all the sportsmen, knights, and youths; people in towns and in the countryside; and all sectors of the people. I send my love, thanks, and appreciation to all those who participated in any sad demonstration, sat in a condolences meeting, and took pains to go to al-Qardahah to offer condolences. I send my love and appreciation to anyone who joined prayers on the soul of our son, in his own house or at mosques; to those who prayed to God or read verses of the Koran; to anyone who eulogized or wrote a line in any cable or letter of condolences; to those who took to the streets and courtyards in our towns and villages, raising slogans of sincerity; to those who participated in any form in expression of sorrow over our loss, the national loss, the demise of the late Basil.

What I have seen over the past days is bright proof that in this country we are one big family. What saddens one, saddens all; what is glad, gladdens all of us. Hearts are one and arms are held together. The national fabric is as firm as steel.

Brother citizens, my permanent concern and sole ambition is that God may grant me the ability and strength to serve the homeland and the people and to carry out what we believe is for the good of the homeland and the nation. While increasing my sense of responsibility, these generous sentiments you expressed to me grant me further ability to exert my efforts and to continue work at full capacity for the sake of construction and liberation; constructing a decent life for the sons of our people, and working seriously to liberate the occupied Arab territories.

We have a lot to accomplish and immense responsibilities to carry out. Let us continue our march, armed with faith in God, and let us redouble our efforts. The people who believed in God, unified themselves, and resolved to regain their rights will surely regain them.

Beloved citizens. Words cannot express the feelings I have for you, feelings of love, appreciation, and pride. I am certain that we will continue our march on the path of dignity and serious work. I pray God to lend me his support in order to continue my efforts to build the homeland and its strength and to defend our national and pan-Arab causes.

I send my thanks and appreciation to the Arab kings, presidents, officials, and citizens who offered condolences either personally, by sending representatives, by telephone, or by sending cables and letters. I send thanks to all heads of state, governments, officials, and figures from all over the world who sent delegates, telephoned, or cabled condolences.

I repeat my thanks, love, and appreciation for you. I press your hands, beloved citizens. May God have mercy on Basil and may God make paradise his abode. Peace and blessings of God be upon you.

India

Rao Reaffirms 'Determination' of Kashmir Policy

BK0803100994 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Text] The prime minister today declared that the government is determined to put down Pakistan-sponsored terrorism in Kashmir and nothing will come in the way of protecting India's territorial integrity. Describing Islamabad raising the human rights issue in Kashmir at Geneva as totally uncalled for, Mr. Narasimha Rao said that Pakistan has no locus standi other than that of an aggressor.

The prime minister said the government will carry out the mandate of Parliament expressed in its unanimous resolution in letter and spirit. He was replying in the Lok Sabha today to the marathon debate on the motion of thanks to the president's address. The house later adopted the motion by a voice vote after rejecting all opposition amendments. Mr. Rao regretted that the basic question on Kashmir has taken a back seat and peripheral issues like human rights have come to the fore. He said the Parliament resolution reflects the determination of the nation to protect the territorial integrity of the country, but the house should go into further details so that the world must know what our Parliament thinks about the issue.

Amid thumping of desks by the treasury benches, Mr. Rao said that the export of terrorism by Pakistan into the Kashmir valley should stop and the government is determined to do it. He said the development efforts in the valley will be intensified and details will be given to the house later. The prime minister dealt with wide-ranging issues including Ayodhya, Dunkel draft, economy, rural development, and reorganization of states.

On Ayodhya, he appealed to the members not to be agitated any more as the Supreme Court is seized of the matter. He said once the apex court gives its opinion, action will be initiated taking the house into confidence.

On reorganization of states, the prime minister said he is not in favor of opening the Pandora box. However, specific schemes have to be initiated to remove imbalance in development. Referring to the situation in the northeast, he said the overall situation has improved and special attention is being paid for the development of the region. He pointed out that for the first time in 40 years, Mizoram has representation in the council of ministers.

Turning to the Dunkel draft, the prime minister declared that the farmers' interest will not be compromised and on the other hand the agriculture exports will get a boost.

Iran

Mubarak's Claim of Involvement in Attempt on Sidqi Denied

LD0803123594 Tehran IRNA in English 1221 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Text] Tehran, March, 8, IRNA—The Foreign Ministry Tuesday strongly denied a claim by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak that Iran was involved in an attempt on the life of Egyptian Premier, 'Atif Sidqi.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman, Morteza Sarmadi, told IRNA that such baseless and false allegations indicated not only the "Cairo regime's helplessness and confusion but also the critical situation in that country."

Sarmadi expressed "deep regret" that a person at the head of state level raised "such false claims based on fabrications" against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In an interview published in the latest issue of Kuwaiti daily, AL-QABAS, Mubarak accused Iran of paying dlrs 13,000 to an Egyptian terrorist to assassinate the Egyptain prime minister.

Security Forces Reportedly Attack Protestors

PM0803114794 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 8 Mar 94 p 1

[Report by Safa Ha'eri: "Wounded and 'Scores Of Arrests' After Demonstration in Tehran"]

[Text] Paris—Eyewitnesses contacted from Paris have said that the day before yesterday Iranian security forces attacked a demonstration in Tehran staged to protest against the rapid deterioration in the economic situation and the spread of corruption among the ruling clerics. The eyewitnesses said that at least 10 people were wounded in the clash and "scores" arrested.

Demonstrators assembled at the Ghalu Bandak [as transliterated] crossroads in southern Tehran near the bazaar, shouting slogans of protest at high prices, the scarcity of food supplies, and shortage of medicine. They also denounced corruption. The eyewitnesses said "hundreds" took part in the demonstration. They said that security forces surrounded the demonstration and fired shots in the air. As a result a number of demonstrators were wounded, while security forces arrested "scores" of them.

The value of the Iranian riyal has dropped over the past two months by 40 percent, causing the prices of local and imported commodities, especially essential ones, to rise at rates exceeding 80 percent. The soaring prices provoked a tide of demonstrations in a number of Iranian cities.

Last Saturday Central Bank Governor Mohammad Hoseyn 'Adeli blamed government economic establishments for the high prices. Local media services said that

car assembly plants belonging to the public sector have increased the prices of their products by 30 percent in less than a month.

As is known, the Iranian regime bans media services from broadcasting any reports about antiregime demonstrations. It also accuses demonstrations of "being hostile to the revolution and Islam." And the publication law considers broadcasting such reports "collaboration with the enemies" and imposes severe punishment for violators.

U.S. 'Change of Heart' on Direct Talks Assessed

LD0803100294 Tehran IRNA in English 0805 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Text] Tehran, March 8, IRNA—A morning English daily here Tuesday commented on the recent remarks by U.S. officials on Washington's intentions to open direct talks with Iran.

"Following 14 years of desperate efforts to undermine the legitimacy of Iran, the United States is finally heeding international pressure and is trying to come to terms with the political realities of the Islamic Republic," said 'TEHRAN TIMES'.

It added that Washington's apparent change of heart is due to two major causes—the limitation of the U.S. influence in the Middle East resulted from the region's cordial relations with Iran and failure of the U.S.-imposed Middle East peace talks which makes Washington to use Tehran's "spiritual influence" in the Islamic world to revive and legitimize the peace accord.

"Iran has endeavored to stay faithful to its own Islamic revolution while leaving open the possibility of reconciliation with the U.S. provided that America releases Iran's assets and refrains from covert and overt operations aimed at isolating and destabilizing the Islamic Republic."

In the case of re-establishment of ties with Iran, the U.S. would stand to gain a lot more than Iran, therefore, it should be prepared to make greater concessions, said the daily in conclusion noting that Iranian officials are well aware of this fact and would base their demands accordingly.

'Major' Concessions Required

NC0803115494 Paris AFP in English 1111 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Text] Tehran, March 8 (AFP)—A normalisation of US-Iranian relations will only be achieved if the United States makes major concessions including the release of Iranian frozen assets, a semi-official newspaper warned Tuesday [8 March].

The English-language daily TEHRAN TIMES argued: "If relations are indeed re-established, the US stands to gain a lot more than Iran, therefore it should be prepared to make greater concessions."

Iran and the United States have not had diplomatic ties since 1980, one year after the Islamic revolution which toppled the pro-American shah, whose regime was a major US ally in the Middle East.

But last week President Bill Clinton's adviser Anthony Lake, and Under Secretary of State for the Middle East Robert Pelletreau reported that Washington was ready to start talks with Iran.

The Iranian Government has so far not reacted officially to the US statements, but has indirectly welcomed the moves via favourable press reports, while restating its conditions for opening Iran-US talks.

The TEHRAN TIMES said: "Iran has left open the possibility of reconciliation with the US provided that America releases Iran's assets which are frozen in American banks and refrains from covert and overt operations aimed at destabilizing the Islamic Republic."

Iranian officials estimate more than 10 billion dollars are currently frozen in the United States.

The daily said the United States "is finally trying to come to terms with the political realities of the Islamic Republic, after 14 years of efforts to undermine its legitimacy."

It attributed the recent US gesture to a refusal by European countries to take part in the US bid to isolate Tehran, and also to the "failure of the US imposed Middle East peace talks."

This has prompted "Washington to consider using Tehran's spiritual influence in the Islamic world to revive the peace accord," the TEHRAN TIMES added.

Last week the KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL, a daily close to Islamic hardliners traditionally opposed to the United States, spoke in favor of "a negotiated solution" to "bring an end to the hostility" between the countries.

Commentary Notes U.S. Dual Policy in Palestine

LD0703201994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 7 Mar 94

[Text] On 6 March Yasir 'Arafat, leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization, arrived in Cairo to discuss the latest developments regarding the Hebron massacre as well as the situation in the occupied land with the head of the Egyptian regime Husni Mubarak.

The 'Arafat-Mubarak talks are taking place under circumstances when the head of the Egyptian regime, in contacts in the past few days with American and Israeli officials, has endeavored to reduce the current crisis in the Arab-Israeli dispute following the onslaught against worshipers in Hebron. The PLO has also dispatched envoys to Washington. The PLO has subjected the re[illegible]ption of peace talks with Israel to the presence of

international force in the occupied areas to protect the lives of Palestinians, to disarm the Jews in the region and to destroy some of the Jewish populated townships in Gaza and West Bank of Jordan river. The Zionist regime, meanwhile, has rejected as a precondition the presence of international force in the occupied lands to secure safety for Palestinians. Yitzhak Rabin has agreed to hold talks about presence of these forces in the occupied areas in the next round provided they are not military forces. To this end, yesterday, Norway said that it would dispatch forces to the usurped lands within an international force.

Political experts believe the presence of an international force in the occupied lands cannot serve favorable to the Zionist regime in light of the fact that the issue of Palestine and Israel will spread from the region to a vaster level and the Zionist regime will not welcome its consequences. However, it seems that in view of the pressure Israel feels at the moment from the public opinion, the plan on dispatch of international force to the occupied areas is brought about and pursued this time by the West and America with objectives in an entity which contradicts the ideals of Palestinians, and aims to reduce pressures exerted on Israel. Therefore, in the light of reflection of the Hebron massacre and the sensitive public opinion towards the crime, the Zionist regime has been placed in defensive position; and what is tangible in the midst is the efforts the West and America make to rid the Zionists of the current unfavorable situation. These efforts, once again, indicate the dual policy of the United States vis-a-vis the issues related to Israel and Arabs.

President, PRC's Envoy To Resist 'Foreign Influence'

NC0503164594 Paris AFP in English 1224 GMT 5 Mar 94

[Text] Tehran, March 5 (AFP)—Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen pledged here Saturday to work together to ward off foreign influence in Central Asia and the Middle East.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in a meeting with Qian, urged Iran and China to play a "more active" international role in order to ward off "interference" by Western powers.

"Such a goal requires planning, cooperation, and further exchanges of views between the regional countries, particularly Iran and China," Hashemi-Rafsanjani said, according to his office.

The president urged Asian countries not to allow "domineering powers" to gain influence in Central Asian states and other regional countries in the "guise of solving their problems."

The ex-Soviet republics of Central Asia are Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan.

Qian, who arrived here Friday at the head of a political and economic delegation, said cooperation between Tehran and Beijing had accelerated after the 1979 Islamic revolution in Iran "because of their common political views."

He agreed on the "need to resist" the influence of foreign powers in the region, a reason for which China was "determined to strengthen cooperation with countries like Iran," according to Hashemi-Rafsanjani's office.

Qian stressed the "need to ensure peace and stability in Central Asia to pave the way for economic progress" in the former Soviet republics.

"China supports economic prosperity in these countries and desires closer cooperation with Iran to solve regional crisis," he said.

Qian, who is here on the last leg of a tour of five Asian and Middle Eastern countries, is to leave for home Sunday.

An Iranian newspaper said Saturday that Tehran could serve as "Asia's Geneva" in solving the regional conflicts and urged major Asian countries, such as China and India, to support the idea.

"Tehran, a city synonymous with peace, possesses the necessary qualities and the good will to realise the idea," the English-language TEHRAN TIMES said.

Qian also held talks with his counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati and was to meet later with parliamentary speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri.

The two countries were also expected to discuss expansion of trade and economic cooperation and settling Iran's 100 million dollars in overdue debt to China.

Bilateral trade stands at around 700 million dollars, with China exporting 300 million dollars, mainly in machinery, and importing 400 million dollars, mostly in oil and steel.

Tehran and Beijing could discuss Chinese participation in several projects here, including the completion of the Tehran subway and construction of several cement plants and dams throughout Iran.

Newspapers said here in November that Tehran and Beijing had agreed to undertake a 60-million dollar project for building a copper foundry in southeastern Iran.

Iran and China are to launch a wide range of agricultural cooperation projects including sending Chinese experts to help in raising bees, fish and shrimp, according to Chinese sources.

PRC Envoy's Visit, Regional Cooperation Viewed

NC0703095794 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 1 Mar 94 p 11

[Commentary by Ruzbeh Bu ol-Hari: "The PRC-Iran-India Axis To Counteract U.S. Policies"]

[Text] PRC Foreign Minister Qian Qichen will arrive in Iran after his Asian trip. His visit to Iran is within the framework of the regular visits carried out by the officials of the two countries to consolidate and broaden bilateral relations. Tehran and Beijing have particular reasons for expanding bilateral relations:

Broadening Economic Relations and Cooperation

Qichen's remarks on political cooperation in safeguarding the interests of the countries of the south in the regional and international organizations have been assessed as positive and he has expressed his interest in closer cooperation among the PRC, India, and Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO] member countries.

Interest in Preserving Peace and Stability in Central Asia

The necessary coordination on issues pertaining to human rights is required, as the countries of the north are seeking to bestow legitimacy on their own overbearing viewpoint in this regard to interfere in the internal affairs of the countries of the south that oppose their domination.

It is predicted that the officials of the PRC and Iran will discuss these as well as other issues, such as the crisis in the Korean peninsula, the security of the Persian Gulf, and the Palestinian issue.

But most importantly, the talks between the PRC and Tehran will pertain to Washington's goals on the Asian continent. When the world is witnessing the rise of nationalism following the Cold War, the countries of the north spearheaded by the United States are seeking to capitalize on this phenomenon. In other words, the north is seeking to use the weapon of nationalism to break up that group of countries in the south that resists them.

The United States sees the extensive region from the Red Sea to Sinkiang and Tibet as suitable for the implementation of its objectives, which include some important countries in the region such as the PRC, India, Iran, and others.

In this regard, by supporting the secessionist movements, as in Tibet, the United States wants to create a security organization in Central Asia that will fill the vacuum stemming from its presence in that vast area. [as published] This is why we saw General Waters, the commander of the NATO armed forces, declaring that this organization is seeking to control countries such as Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan. Similarly it was announced that the United States is seeking to set up a base in Kyrgyzstan.

By capitalizing on the economic problems of the Central Asian countries, the United States wants to infiltrate the region. What is important in this path is that the national security of the PRC, Iran, and India will be endangered, because they are near this region.

If the U.S. goals in the breakup of the regional countries materialize, the front of the countries of the south and the Asian continent will face tension and instability.

But solidarity and coordination among Beijing, New Delhi, and Tehran could counteract this imperialistic policy of the countries of the north and prevent Central Asian countries from depending on them, thus guiding the region toward peace and stability.

The visit by Qian Qichen can help achieve this prospect.

Russia's Adamishin, Velayati Discuss Ties, Tajik Conflict

LD0603172994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 6 Mar 94

[Text] In a meeting today between Foreign Minister Velayati and the Russian deputy foreign minister, Anatoliy Adamishin, expansion of Iran-Russia ties, regional cooperation, and the resolution of regional crises, especially the Tajik crisis, were discussed.

At the meeting, Deputy Russian Foreign Minister Adamishin, said: Russia seeks to use its good relations with Iran to resolve regional crises, including the Tajik crisis, because we do not see any need for a military solution in Tajikistan. Therefore Iran and Russia are able, through using their influence, to establish peace and tranquillity in the region. He added: Iran anH Russia have strategic interests in Tajikistan.

Mr. Velayati, while describing today's meeting of the Tajik opposition leaders and Russian officials in Tehran as important, considered it to be a turning point in resolving the Tajik crisis and said: The Islamic Republic of Iran supports any solution which will maintain the national interests of the Tajik people.

He added: The resolution of the Tajik crisis through military means is impossible. Therefore the only way to establish a fair and honorable peace is by peaceful means.

At the meeting, the issue of increasing regional cooperation—especially the Organization for the Cooperation of the Caspian Sea Littoral States—was discussed and the Russian deputy foreign minister declared his country's readiness for the earliest possible convening of a meeting of the Organization's senior experts.

Both Sides To Cooperate in Conflict

LD0603113294 Tehran IRNA in English 1045 GMT 6 Mar 94

[Text] Tehran, March, 6, IRNA—Iran and Russia here Saturday agreed to cooperate for peaceful settlement of current disputes in the Republic of Tajikistan. The agreement was reached by Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmud Va'ezi and his Russian counterpart Anatoliy Adamishin, currently here to discuss regional and bilateral issues with Iranian officials.

Adamishin, who arrived here last Friday, said that there was proper grounds for Tehran-Moscow cooperation to resolve Tajikistan disputes. Referring to the endeavors made by the Islamic Republic to bring an end to the disputes, Va'ezi reiterated that Iran, like before, would continue efforts to establish a just peace in Tajikistan.

Any effort should be based on existing realities inside Tajikistan and be aimed at resolving people's problems, Va'ezi added, stressing that the best way to this end was formation of a government able to materialize national aspirations of the Tajik people.

Adamishin is also expected to hold official talks with Tajik government's opposition leaders.

Russian Envoy Comments

LD0503184994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 5 Mar 94

[Text] During a meeting in Tehran today with Mr. Mahmud Va'ezi, Euro-American affairs deputy of the Foreign Ministry, the Russian deputy foreign minister, Anatoliy Adamishin, spoke about the possibility of meeting officially the leaders of the opponents of the Tajik Government in Tehran.

Stressing the importance of resolving the problems of Tajikistan by peaceful means, he pointed out: We admit that the Islamic Republic of Iran has deep historical and religious links with the people of Tajikistan, and we consider this a good basis for cooperation with Iran to resolve the Tajikistan conflict.

According to a report of the Central News Unit, Mr. Va'ezi said at this meeting: Iran will continue to strive as it has in the past to restore peace in Tajikistan. He added: Any efforts to resolve the Tajikistan problem should focus on realities and should attempt to solve the people's difficulty. These efforts should also focus on the establishment of a comprehensive government that can meet the national objectives of the people of Tajikistan, which seems to be the best alternative.

Opposition Urges Democracy

LD0603172194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 6 Mar 94

[Text] Within the framework of national reconciliation plan in Tajikistan, the first round of talks between the leaders of Tajikistan's Islamic and national groups opposed to the present government in Tajikistan and the first deputy foreign minister of Russia, Anatoliy Adamishin, began in Tehran today.

During these talks the leaders of the opposition groups explained their views on ways of restoring tranquillity and security in that country and stressed the need for establishment of democracy by involving all the forces of Tajikistan in running the country's affairs.

These talks are taking place with approval of the present government in Tajikistan, UN support, and cooperation of the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI]. The IRI, which is striving to restore peace in combination with tranquillity and stability in Tajikistan, stressed from the beginning that the military option cannot solve this country's political and economic problems; and the only way of resolving Tajikistan's difficulties is establishment of national reconciliation government.

President Addresses Diplomatic Graduates

LD0803111494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, addressing graduates of our country's Foreign Ministry Diplomatic Studies Centers, has stressed the need for training loyal and specialist forces in foreign policy matters, particularly in the Islamic world and Islamic states. He said: At present, in the struggle against anti-human affairs and the creation of an independent movement, the Islamic Republic has gained valuable and long-term experience which could become a model for the freindly and peace-loving countries of the world.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: Iran's foreign policy does not pursue any other objective but prosperity for the oppressed nations and the promotion of Islam, and is not contaminated with those selfish policies currently practised in the arrogant world.

Referring to the Hebron mosque incident, the president said: Since the formation of Zionism in the world, there has been more wars, economic pressure, destruction of man-made and natural resources, and more instances of harm to popular regimes and revolutionary states. This issue must be investigated and studied by diplomats so as to adopt a proper stand against it.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed confidence that the Islamic ummah, through extensive participation in the international Jerusalem Day rallies, will demonstrate another proper response in the face of this horrific crime.

At the start of this meeting Foreign Minister Velayati presented a report on special courses for training foreign diplomats.

Velayati Phones Pakistani Counterpart on Hebron Incident

LD0803103594 Tehran IRNA in English 1024 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Text] Tehran, March 8, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in a telephone conversation with his Pakistani counterpart Asif Ahmad Ali here Tuesday morning discussed holding of an emergency meeting of members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

Iran has called on the OIC member states to hold an emergency session to review the massacre of the fasting Palestinian worshipers by the Zionist forces in Hebron on February 25.

The Pakistani foreign minister, the rotating head of the OIC, said that Islamabad has made efforts to receive positive answers from the OIC members, the Information and Press Department of the Foreign Ministry reported. He added that Pakistan would take necessary measures later and after the implementation of the preliminary stages, the report added.

Hebron Killing Viewed in Jerusalem Day Feature

NC0603095594

[Editorial Report] Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network at 0345 GMT on 6 March broadcasts a special 45-minute feature on Jerusalem Day, which is to be celebrated on Friday, 11 March. The feature includes a brief opening talk by the announcer, who says: "If we want to examine the al-Khalil [Hebron] mosque massacre, we can see that, contrary to the allegations by the regime occupying Jerusalem, the massacre of the worshipers at the al-Ibrahimi mosque was not a spontaneous act by a group of extremists but the starting point of a series of acts that are being perpetrated by the Zionist government in a bid to achieve a special objective. If we want to understand this better, we have to look at the recent U.S.-Israeli act in the region. What the West is propounding as the peace process only mentions the word peace and pursues very specific objectives."

The announcer then goes on to say: "The first objective that international Zionism is pursuing is to extinguish the burning flames of the intifadah, which is considered to be one of the most dangerous political-social phenomena of the region for Israel, the United States, and even the corrupt regimes around them. International Zionism considers the intifadah to be yet another fruit of the Islamic revival process, which is threatening the interests and objectives of the regime occupying Jerusalem."

Then the guest of the feature, Hoseyn Sheykholeslam, Iranian deputy foreign minister for Arab and African affairs, is asked to comment on the Hebron massacre. In answer to a question on what objective the Zionists are pursuing in the incident, Sheykholeslam says: "The Zionists' objective is very simple. They do not want there to be any Palestinian in Palestine. They do not want any non-Israeli or anyone who does not believe in world domination by Zionism to be in Israel. Israel has a big strategic plan for this purpose. This plan has political, international, economic, propaganda, social, and psychological aspects. It has been following this plan for more than 50 years in various stages. It has almost succeeded, especially with the implementation of the Camp David agreement as well as the compromise plans that have emerged, one by one, after Camp David."

Sheykholeslam then refers to the Islamic revolution in Iran and says that one of the most important aspects of the revolution was the method that Imam Khomeyni used in directing the revolution: "a method that displayed the true power of the nation, something that we saw in our revolution and what we are witnessing in Palestine today." Sheykholeslam says: "This massacre was actually a follow-up to the psychological-social plan to spread fear in the hearts of the Palestinians so that they will become dissatisfied with their life in Palestine and will leave their territories and go." Sheykholeslam discusses how the same method is being used in the field of economics by "increasing inflation at home" so that the Palestinians will not be able to lead a good life and will have to leave the country.

Later in the feature and after music and slogans, Sheykholeslam is asked to give details on the Hebron incident and to comment: "It is good to note that the majority of the martyrs were between 18 and 25 years of age. This shows how close this [Palestinian] revolution is to our revolution. Like the role that the youths played in our revolution, the youths there have now come onto the scene. The youths have stolen the scene from the nationalists, politicians, and communists and it is the Muslims who are on the scene now. Fortunately, this trend is growing more and more each day. The last base of the nationalists was al-Khalil which, I think, will be taken out of the Israelis' hands with this incident."

The feature goes on to broadcast phone calls from listeners who express their readiness to fight next to the Palestinians. Sheykholeslam then says: "The nation is well aware that this war, the war that is going on in Palestine, is one between Islam and blasphemy. The future of the world will be determined by this war. Whether we want it or not, the future of the world will be determined by a confrontation between Islam led by the pure Muhammedan Islam, which His Eminence the Imam propounded in Iran, on the one side and arrogance, which is led by the United States and Israel, on the other."

Later in the program the announcer asks Sheykholeslam to comment on the opinion by many analysts that "there

is a link between the massacre of Muslims in Palestine and the massacre of Muslims elsewhere, namely in Bosnia-Herzegovina." Sheykholeslam says that as previously stated: "The future war will be one between Islam, especially the outlook of our nation and its leadership on the one side, and arrogance in general on the other. Each and every Muslim, wherever he may be, is considered a potential enemy to them. The more combatant a Muslim is, a bigger enemy he is for them. And if there is the possibility that he can form Islamic rule, even a rule by Muslims, this is considered a greater threat to them. The crime that you are witnessing in Bosnia-Herzegovina today is being done to prevent the Muslims there from forming a country and an Islamic rule. I do not know why it is, but apparently it is God's wish that the hotter this furnace of struggle becomes, the more combatant the elements that emerge from it are. According to the Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina, if it was not for this struggle they would not have been able to become acquainted with Islam in this way, and if this genocide had not continued, they would not have come so close to the Islamic Republic and the mode of our thoughts. The same applies to Palestine. Today's Palestinians are much closer to us than the Palestinian of the pro-Camp David era."

The feature continues with more phone calls. The last question asked of Sheykholslam is what significance the people's presence at the Jerusalem Day march has. Sheykholeslam says: "Our nation should know that arrogance wants to convince the Palestinians that they do not have anyone to support them. This is the policy that is aimed at spreading disillusionment. But our nation should know that by coming to the scene and to the marches, it shows that it is next to the Palestinian nation. It will encourage the Palestinians. And this is exactly the opposite of the policy that arrogance wants to impose. Our Palestinian brothers believe that Muslims bearing black flags will come from the east and will liberate Palestine. Maybe this means the black chadors [veils] of the Iranian nation. You know that our nation, and especially the women, impressed the West with their black chadors and conveyed a special message. This belief by the Palestinian nation may mean this. At any rate, the Palestinian nation, which arrogance tried to disillusion as much as possible, is powerfully on the scene today and should be supported by our nation in every possible way, the most simple of which may be presence at the Jerusalem Day march."

Palestinian Officials Discuss Hebron Incident

NC0703132094 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 28 Feb 94 p 18

[Report on "exclusive" interviews with Dr. Fathi al-Shiqaqi, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad in Palestine, and Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, by an unidentified KEYHAN correspondent in Damascus; date not given]

[Text] The secretary general of the Islamic Jihad in Palestine Dr. Fathi al-Shiqaqi and the secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] Nayif Hawatimah answered questions put by a KEYHAN correspondent in Damascus on the dimensions of the Hebron catastrophe.

We now present the exclusive interviews with these Palestinian personalities:

Dr. Fathi al-Shiqaqi, the secretary general of the Islamic Jihad in Palestine, elaborated on the organization's stance on the killing of dozens of Palestinian Muslims in the mosque of the Prophet Abraham (peace be upon bim) in Hebron in an exclusive interview with our correspondent in Damascus.

He said: This massacre was not at all unexpected, as the criminal Zionists have been perpetrating the most heinous crimes in the past 50 years against the Muslim Palestinian nation.

He added: The criminal Zionists believe they can achieve their unholy objectives by martyring the greatest number of Palestinian Muslims and by driving the Palestinian nation out of the country.

Regarding the joint plot by the Zionist armed forces and the Jewish settlers in carrying out the massacre, Dr. al-Shiqaqi stated: Naturally, the Zionist armed forces jointly carried out this crime, because, in the past, 40 soldiers have been on guard at the mosque round the clock. But at the time this crime was committed, only two or three soldiers were at the scene of the crime. They assisted the attacking settlers and provided them with the necessary arms and equipment to kill the greatest number of worshippers.

He said: After committing the catastrophic crime, the criminals easily fled the scene with the help of the Zionist armed forces. He blamed the government of Yitzhaq Rabin for the crime and said: There is no doubt that the Rabin government had all the information on this crime before it was perpetrated and even prepared the conditions for killing the Palestinian Muslims.

On the condemnation of the crime by Yasir 'Arafat, he said: It is absurd that Rabin and Clinton also condemned the crime, when they are accomplices to the crime, the natural result of the treasonous PLO accord with the Zionist regime plotted by the United States.

On the future response by the Palestinian organizations to this atrocity, Dr. al-Shiqaqi stated: Our nation does not fear intimidation or martyrdom and will continue the intifadah. The Palestinian guerrillas will, helped by almighty God, very soon deliver a shattering blow to the Zionists and those who have compromised with them. We will soon avenge the blood of the martyrs of the Hebron Mosque.

Referring to the stances of international organizations on this crime, al-Shiqaqi stated: Our nation pays no attention to these organizations' stances, as the United

States is supervising them and using them. The international organizations claim to condemn the crime but have taken no important step to condemn the Zionist regime. The United States will never exert pressure on Israel for committing this crime.

Commenting on the possibility of 'Arafat capitalizing on the crime at the mosque, the secretary general of Islamic Jihad in Palestine said: Instead of taking a stance against the Zionist regime, 'Arafat has agreed to accept the U.S. Government's invitation to continue talks with Rabin to rein in the intifadah. On principle, 'Arafat has become an agent for the policies of the United States and the Zionist regime to pave the way for killing more Palestinian Muslims.

Concluding, he alluded to the stances of the United States and some of the Western and regional countries asking the Palestinian organizations not to carry out guerrilla operations and to confine themselves to political measures and stated: The United States and the countries above wish to draw our nation into a compromise and will not give the Palestinian organizations permission to take any political action. But the Palestinian nation is determined to continue its struggle and soon, the flames of our nation's fury will descend upon the Zionists and upon those who have compromised and lethal blows will be dealt by means of armed struggle against the Zionist regime. The PLO accord with the Zionist regime will be thrown in the dustbin of history.

In his remarks to the KEYHAN correspondent, Nayif Hawatimah stated: The Zionist regime is the element behind the crime of killing the worshippers in al-Khalil and 'Arafat paved the way for its occurrence. According to Hawatimah, 'Arafat has made a two-faced statement. First, he claimed that a demented Israeli had committed the crime; he did this to prevent clashes from erupting and the intifadah from continuing. Second, 'Arafat openly held talks with Clinton and Rabin and accepted the Rabin-Clinton plan for reining in the Palestinian guerrilla operations. Hawatimah added: This atrocity has been committed as a result of the accord among the United States, Israel, and 'Arafat and this compromise has been the catalyst for the heinous atrocity in Hebron.

Answering a question on whether he will only confine himself to political actions at this stage, Hawatimah declared: The DFLP has faith in political means and armed operations and will utilize every means to inflict a blow on the Israeli regime. He called on the Western countries to revoke all negotiations with the Zionist regime and asked the Arab countries to continue their economic siege of Israel. On the need for coordination among the Palestinian groups opposed to the trend of compromise, Hawatimah said: This coordination will continue without heeding the existing difficulties and the Palestinian organizations will continue to prepare the Palestinian nation for the intifadah and general strikes.

According to Hawatimah, the United States does not comprehend the real internal problems of Palestine and 'Arafat has no standing in the Palestinian nation. He cannot direct or rein in the intifadah. He added: The Zionist regime's massacres must be halted and the UN forces should be sent to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip for this purpose.

Hawatimah stated: Extensive demonstrations continue on the West Bank, in Gaza, and in the Palestinian camps in Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan and general strikes have been announced for three days inside the occupied territories. The Zionists have given no privileges to 'Arafat and merely prepared themselves for committing more crimes against the Palestinian nation. Such crimes will continue to be perpetrated under the cover of the 'Arafat-Rabin accord.

He also announced that the DFLP accepts UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and that the United Nations must send its troops to supervise the conditions inside the West Bank and Gaza Strip and should treat the occupied areas like those in Bosnia-Herzegovina. He appealed to Russia, the United States, and other countries to prevent new crimes against the Palestinians.

NATO Accused of Diverting Attention From Hebron

NC0703132394 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 1 Mar 94 pp 1, 15

[Editorial: "Cover for the al-Khalil Debacle"]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

The United States has embarked on an action in Bosnia-Herzegovina calculated to divert world public opinion from the catastrophe of the Hebron massacre. The U.S. F-16s confronted the Serb fighter planes and downed four of them.

Even though this action was endorsed by NATO, it resembles more a "willful action" on the part of Washington in order to overshadow Israel's atrocity. The world's public is still fiercely and categorically protesting against the Zionists' crime—of killing fasting worshipers in the shrine of Prophet Abraham (peace be upon him) more than ever before. In the occupied territories, the Palestinians have also entered the fray with all their being against the Zionist armed forces.

In such circumstances, the U.S. action against the Serbs is more a decision to deliver Israel from the pressure of world public opinion than a move to chastise the Serbs, in order to defuse the importance and sensitivity of the debacle, and the carnage of Muslims at the hands of the Zionists, by trying to eclipse it with reports on Bosnian issues.

In addition, this will also provide Washington and NATO members with the opportunity to project it as a decisive blow against the Serbs and to douse the inflamed sentiments of the world regarding the overt and

covert collusion of the West and the savage Serbs and to give the impression that it did not remain an idle spectator. Washington's action can also be construed as ridiculing Russia. The Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev had earlier warned the West that every action with regard to Bosnia-Herzegovina should be coordinated with Moscow. Thus, by means of this willful act, Washington tried to convey the impression that it reserves the right to take the initiative in Bosnia-Herzegovina and does not need any coordination with Moscow.

This means that the downing of some Serb planes can be considered a multi-pronged maneuver from the vantage point of Washington without any overt negative aspects for the United States, especially since it could also serve to divert the wounded sensitivities of the Islamic world from the bitter Hebron incident toward Bosnia-Herzegovina. This would be like saying that the United States is not the enemy of Muslims everywhere and it has taken action at least in their favor in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

If this is the posture favored by Washington, then it is certain that Washington will not take any more such actions and will constantly seek to magnify this particular action from its propaganda loudspeakers. The reason is clear. Reports received from Bosnia-Herzegovina show that the Muslim-inhabited areas continue to be repeatedly bombed by Serb and Croat airplanes. Therefore, in order to preempt questions by the world public on its taking a stance against the Serbs, it has taken this action to prove that it can enter the fray against these crimes and if it stops midway, naturally this would be attributed to the European members of NATO.

In clearer terms, it means that Washington wants to show that it wishes to confront the Serbs, but it is the European coterie of NATO, in which there is no consensus in this regard. This vantage point is more in harmony with Washington's past propaganda, as Washington has constantly sought to exonerate itself from being accused of prevarication and indecisiveness in its approach to Serbian crimes.

Despite all the above, the heinous atrocities of Israel in the occupied territories should not be eclipsed by other events. Following the pogrom in the al-Ibrahimi shrine—instead of adopting a more peace-seeking attitude—Israel has intensified its crimes. Israel has attributed this massacre to a demented individual. If one such lunatic an commit such a crime, there is no dearth of such serial madmen in the chain of command in the Israeli armed forces and who will naturally continue to threaten, intimidate, torture, and kill every Palestinian at every moment in their homes, mosques, and streets.

All the facts and figures indicate that this time the Palestinians have entered the arena with greater strength and determination as they sense, with all their being, that their existence and life is linked to revenge on the Zionists and only revenge on the enemy—with all its serious dimensions—will make the bestial usurpers regret and refrain from greater crime and slaughter.

It is precisely for this reason that a seething wave of protests, strikes, and uprisings has erupted all over occupied Palestine and without any regard for the treacherous compromising faction, the Palestinians are prepared to tackle the Zionists decisively. It seems highly unlikely that the deterrent and defensive actions by Israel will prove effective in combating this tidal wave of fury and general hatred in the occupied territories.

The closure of the al-Ibrahimi shrine and promises of reparations cannot heal the wounded sensitivities of the Muslims, nor can it lessen the extent of the protest. By pledging to pay reparations, Israel has resorted to a new ploy, that, on the one hand it can carry out the butchery of Palestinian Muslims, and on the other hand it can pay reparations as blood money. In this manner, Israel is in fact paying blood money for its own victims so that it can continue perpetrating its crimes with a free hand. In fact, by offering to pay compensation, the Zionists are diverting the issue from its main path and are attempting to depict it as an accidental and unwanted occurrence, while it is really a preplanned and willful action in which the Israeli armed forces certainly played the primary role.

In addition, such a proposal also indicates that pressure is so great on Israel that it is forced to promise compensation and naturally the Palestinians will not agree and will not settle for anything less than the impeachment and penalizing of the agents of this crime and by revenge on the savage Zionists.

Commentary Views Cooperation With India, China

LD0603203594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 6 Mar 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Close to the end of the visit to Tehran by China's foreign minister and vice premier, Qian Qichen, Mr. Dinesh Singh, India's external affairs minister, arrived in the Iranian capital. Concurrence of the visits of these two major strategic Asian countries' foreign ministers to Tehran has drawn attention of the world's political circles to the tripartite talks among Iran, India, and China. Significance of this matter lies in the fact that, under the new global conditions, the concept of security and power has undergone a change in qualitative terms. The world is now about to enter the phase where political, economic, and military regionalism will replace earlier equations of polarized power in the Cold War era at international level.

It is assumed the strategic location of the three interrelated zones in geographical and historical terms—namely, the Islamic zone and the zones of the Chinese and Indian civilizations—under the new global conditions and in a realistic survey, can turn India, Iran, and

China into a well-integrated group. Upon adding Pakistan to this group, one can say that there will emerge a regional power pole. Such a pole will have an undeniable impact in safeguarding regional and world peace and in motivating national development in these countries.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is the center of the Islamic civilization. India, too, is the center of the Indian civilization, while China enjoys a similar position in the Confucian civilization. Growth of mutual cooperation in these three zones of historic civilization can strengthen Asia's independence in all aspects. The factor which can turn such an alliance into a desirable group in the contemporary world underlies that the group enjoys all resources for development in terms of natural resources, work force, and technology.

Based on the vastness of the groups geographical limits—ranging from the Middle East to the Indian subcontinent and east Asia—and its population, which is nearly half of the world, this point becomes clear. In the event of total realization of these resources, not only the group will be able to respond to all of its needs but will also become a model encouraging the enhancement of cooperation in the entire Asian continent.

Upon considering the triangle of power, comprising Tehran, New Delhi, and Beijing as a well integrated group, one can say without any doubt that the equation of international power will come to face more diverse pressures from the Western world and the new UN-sponsored world order. Such a situation will not only increase this group's power to confront the covetous designs of the West but will also boost the capacity of each of the countries included in this power triangle for confrontation in political and economic spheres.

* New Appointment Announced

94LA0098F Tehran SALAM in Persian 9 Feb 94 p 2

[Text] In a decree issued by Mr. 'Abdolmahmud Zarrabi, the administrative and financial deputy director of Iran insurance, Mr. 'Alireza Salehi was appointed manager of the 'Abbasi Hotel.

Pakistan

Bhutto Discusses Government Priorities

BK0603090494 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0100 GMT 6 Mar 94

[Text] The prime minister has said that a solution to the Kashmir issue, support to the cause of Muslims throughout the world, increase in energy production, and a check on the population boom are the foremost priorities of her government. Addressing a Ramadhan fast-breaking dinner for journalists, Ms. Benazir Bhutto said that the support to the cause of Kashmiris is included in the 1947 principles of our independence, and we are continuing the support to Muslims of Bosnia, Afghanistan, and Palestine under the same spirit.

The prime minister said that for us, the Kashmir cause is a part of our faith in God, and we have made intensive efforts and taken practical steps in this regard; and instead of remaining silent as in the past decade, we have fully highlighted the Kashmir issue. The prime minister said that one of our goals is to do away with Pakistan's international isolation. She said that Pakistan was on the verge of being declared a terrorist state during the past regime.

Ms. Benazir Bhutto said that her government has decided to present the Jammu and Kashmir issue in its correct perspective. Pakistan values freedom, for which the Muslims of the subcontinent launched a struggle under our great leader Jinnah. She said that her government's political will and determination have helped in taking the Kashmir issue from one capital to the other and from one city to the other, thereby apprising the world leaders of the miserable condition in Kashmir. She said that the opposition should have cooperated with us in this regard, but it disappointed us.

Ms. Benazir Bhutto said that she visited Cyprus within a few hours after assuming the office to apprise the Commonwealth leaders of Indian atrocities in Kashmir. Eventually, the government decided to present the issue before the the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva. This is the first time since the 1950's that this has happened.

Referring to internal issues, the prime minister said that she has directed the authorities to ensure fiscal discipline to contain the budgetary deficit that presently stands at about 60 billion rupees. The federal and provincial governments will have to cut their nondevelopmental expenditures at all levels.

Asif Asserts Nation Not Seeking India's Break-Up

BK0303100594 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 3 Mar 94 p 1

[Report by Raja Zulfikar]

[Text] Islamabad: Foreign Minister Sardar Asif has said that Pakistan's vital interest is not Khalistan, nor break-up of India "if India breaks up, it will affect us also".

While talking to a group of journalists in the Senate hall where he had come to cast his vote in the Senate election, the foreign minister said: "We do not wish to see break-up of India. Pakistan's vital interest is Kashmir and not Khalistan or other things like Nagaland and this or that."

He deplored that the leader of the opposition thought that establishment of Khalistan was in the national interest of Pakistan, and not Kashmir. He differed with the idea that a strong India was a threat to Pakistan.

"Big and small countries do not have a set of relations. If the big country begins to live as equal neighbour, it is no

problem. After all, the USA and Mexico are also living in peace like China and Bhutan. Why can't India live in peace with neighbours." He said the day they (India) changed the mentality of bulldozing the region, the matter will be over.

Replying to a question about increase in Indian defence expenditure, Sardar Asif said Pakistan could not protest against this because it was India's sovereign right to spend whatever it liked. However, he said it was very unfortunate and this would escalate arms race in the region and would definitely increase tension. He said Pakistan was reducing its defence expenditure but India was increasing it.

"From whom do they fear a threat? There is no country that can threaten them in this region. We all feel extremely concerned and this is not the concern of Pakistan alone but of South Asian countries and all those countries which are in the Indian Ocean region."

The Foreign Affairs Minister linked the passage of Pak-sponsored resolution on Kashmir with the international morality and a test of the world moral position.

Though not pessimistic yet a rather concerned Sardar Asif remarked "a broad trend of events shows that economic interests have superseded morality. There is little morality and much commercialism everywhere," the minister said during a chat with a group of newsmen in the Senate Hall which was declared a polling station on Wednesday.

He expressed Pakistan's concern over increase in the Indian defence expenditure and termed it unfortunate. He further said that Pakistan's vital interest was in Kashmir and not in Khalistan or breakup of India.

Asked if the Pak-sponsored resolution on Kashmir met failure, would it not demoralise the people? Sardar Asif remarked it should not. "We want to find out exactly what are the double standards. We want to know how much morality is left in the West. We will test them again and again, we want to test them now and later in September and we will test them at every forum," the minister maintained.

He described the Kashmir resolution as an election "and when you are into an election, you go with open eyes, knowing fully that you can win or lose." According to the Foreign Minister, the fate of the resolution did not depend on arithmetics or number count, instead it was a question of world conscience.

He was satisfied that Pakistan had done every thing possible. "There is nothing which we could have done that we have not done." he did not agree that it would be a diplomatic failure if the resolution did not get through. "How can," he said, "Pakistan be held responsible if there is no international morality left? You cannot blame the victim." But he did say that every one agreed the human rights violations must stop in the Indian-held Kashmir.

Sardar Asif, however, said the world at large had special relations with India as it was a market of a billion people. The western countries have commercial links with India and mega deals with them which they don't want to lose," the minister said. [quotation marks as published]

Replying to a question about Afghanistan, Sardar Asif elaborated that there was a possibility of reopening of Pakistan's embassy in Kabul as soon as possible but he made it conditional with adequate compensation and return of equipment. However, he said relations with Afghanistan were all right.

To another question, he said Islamabad had not closed the border with Afghanistan but re-established it. "We have to give a clear signal to every one that it is international border and there must be respect for it." He warned that no illegal entry would be allowed. Islamabad, he said, would try to relax conditions as much as the situation demanded. He said General Ziaul Haq, whom he termed a dictator, had introduced several flaws in connection with passport and visa facilities to the Afghan nationals and their Pakistani citizenship.

About any fresh India-Pak contact, Sardar Asif said Pakistan wanted to go forward with the talks and it was keen for a dialogue "but let them create conditions for talks to proceed."

He described as baseless an allegation by Indian Foreign Secretary that Pakistan was creating hurdles in development of good relations and said Islamabad was prepared to discuss any thing. But he said it was unfortunate that the call for improving human rights situation was dubbed as 'hurdle'.

Paper Views Decision To Increase Defense Budget

BK0703140494 Rawalpindi JANG in Urdu 6 Mar 94 p 3

[Editorial: "Increase in the Defense Budget"]

[Text] Pakistan has informed the International Monetary Fund of its decision to increase its defense budget by 100 billion rupees for the next fiscal year following India's announcement of a 20-percent hike in its defense budget. Pakistan has also made it clear to the monetary organization that the new dimensions of dangers posed to this region due to the increase in the Indian defense budget cannot be ignored. Financial organizations like the IMF have adopted a policy of imposing tough conditions when providing aid and loans to needy, developing countries. Generally, conditions like a cut in defense expenditure and the number of armed forces personnel are set in cases of Islamic countries. Pressure has also been exerted on Pakistan to accept this condition. However, India has been exempted from it. The Pakistan Government has been severely criticized by the opposition and some other political circles, and it is not possible for the government to easily reject these criticisms.

By deciding to increase the defense budget, the government has silenced its political opponents, and the people have expressed their satisfaction. By informing responsible persons in the IMF about the decision, the Government of Pakistan has also made it clear that it is not willing to put its security and existence at stake merely to secure loans from a financial organization. The fact is that India's aggressive designs in this region is no secret and Pakistan faces the gravest danger from the Indian buildup. This is because it is with Pakistan that India has the most serious dispute, in the form of Kashmir. India considers Pakistan as the biggest hurdle in this region to the fulfillment of its designs. Pakistan has already been the target of Indian aggression thrice. Therefore, it cannot afford to ignore Indian activities.

Under the circumstances, the Government of Pakistan's decision is an appropriate and sensible one in the interest of the country's security and a strong national defense. The government should scrupulously adhere to the decision. Pakistan's position is very strong and forceful and this is why it is not possible for any country or organization to ever counter Pakistan's arguments at any forum.

Efforts To Hold Off U.S. Trade Sanctions Noted

BK0703091294 Islamabad THE NATION in English 7 Mar 94 p 6

[Editorial: "Threat of Trade Sanctions"]

[Text] The US is reportedly threatening Pakistan with trade sanctions. During the tenure of the Nawaz Sharif government, two cases were filed under the US Trade Act of 1974 which seek the withdrawal of the 'most favoured nation' status thus far accorded to Pakistan. The grounds for this are that Pakistan has not been abiding by ILO [International Labour Organization] conventions on labour rights. Bonded and child labour are said to be widely used in some industries here. According to reports in the litigation underway, the present government has deliberately failed to meet the deadlines set by the American judicial committee and this could result in the threat of the sanctions being turned into a reality. Whether this allegation is accurate is uncertain, but in any case since both the Labour and Commerce Ministries as well as the Law Division are involved, it is not clear who is in fact responsible for framing the answers required by the litigation in the US. Matters have come to such a pass despite the fact that the PM [Prime Minister] had constituted a committee headed by Shahnaz Wazir Ali to coordinate the concerned Ministries' and Departments' efforts. It now appears that this Committee was for some reason unable to meet the deadlines. Perhaps the lapse was not intentional but related to the complexity of the matter and the various government departments' inefficiency. An entire gamut of our exports such as carpets and textile goods are likely to be the victim of these sanctions, if imposed. A large part of our population lives way below the poverty line. To simply state that child and bonded labour should be eliminated to meet American legal requirements for preferential treatment in trade is unrealistic and ignores the harsh problems our poor face to merely survive. Obviously, earnings from these forms of labour cannot be replaced by any measure overnight, even though our government ought really to be paying more regard to safety nets for our less privileged. As a prerequisite to doing away with these ills, jobs will have to be created on a vast scale and adequate remuneration for the bread earners of families provided so that the poor are not compelled to send their children to work or engage in bonded labour. Meanwhile, the government should gear up its efforts to try and convince the US authorities that we are heading in the desirable direction and in turn, stave off the crippling effect, estimated at a loss of $200 to $400 million in 1994 alone, that trade sanctions would have on the economy.

Sri Lanka

Security Forces Destroy 'Major' LTTE Base

BK0703083894 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0454 GMT 7 Mar 94

["LANKAPUVATH/OANA/POOL" item]

[Text] Colombo, Mar 7—Sri Lanka security forces Sunday [6 March] destroyed a major LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorist forward base in Sri Lanka's northern district of Vavuniya killing a number of terrorists and recovering a large haul of weapons.

Military spokesman Brigadier Gemunu Kulatunga told LANKAPUVATH that troops of Operation Jayabima broke out of their forward defence locality and moved three kilometers northwards and attacked the LTTE terrorist base at Birappankulam in an operation which began at 11.15 hours (local time) and ended at 15.20 hours.

Army commandos participated in the operation while air cover was also provided by the Sri Lanka Air Force. Brigadier Kulatunga said there was initial resistance from the enemy but this was overcome. Six terrorists were confirmed killed while one soldier was also killed in action.

While all the terrorist huts were destroyed, government troops captured 3,750 rounds of 7.62 ammunition; one T-56 rifle; 20 arul grenades; nine hand grenades; three T-56 rifle magazines; two M-16 magazines; four pouches; six FNC [type of machine gun] belts, one generator, and one solar power system.

Over 100 LTTE Militants Killed Since Jan

BK0303130294 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1141 GMT 3 Mar 94

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 3 Mar (LANKAPUVATH)—Sri Lanka's security forces have in a new wave of motivation and confidence killed over one hundred LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists while losing only six soldiers in the first two months of 1994, in ten incidents where the LTTE attacked in large strength but were beaten back with heavy losses.

They have not only repulsed attacks by the LTTE though heavily outnumbered, but also killed as many as an estimated 100 terrorists mostly in close quarter battle, military spokesman Brigadier Gemunu Kulatunga told LANKAPUVATH Thursday.

Giving details, he said that a group of soldiers training with dummy ammunition and firing mortars at Weli Oya were fired on by LTTE terrorists with a barrage of live mortars on Tuesday. The mortar trainees had immediately reloaded their mortars with live ammunition and hit back hard at the terrorists killing two of them and forcing others to withdraw. Two soldiers were also killed in this incident which occurred during daylight hours.

Brigadier Kulatunga said that 15 terrorists were confirmed killed and 10 bodies recovered at Comar Point, Pooneryn, in northern Sri Lanka.

He said that in an another incident, 30 to 40 LTTE terrorists had been killed in a dawn attack on an army picket moving from Kahambiligasyayad detachment at Weli Oya. In this incident four soldiers had been killed when a terrorist mortar hit a buffel [as received] vehicle which they were manning causing an explosion of the ammunition inside it. In an act of rare bravery and courage a single soldier charged at the LTTE terrorists with his T-56 firing burst after burst at a group of thoroughly shocked terrorists killing five of them while the others ran. Subsequently reinforcements and air cover were called in and about 30-40 terrorists were killed.

A report from Thoppigala in the jungles south of Batticaloa District states that troops effectively beat back a pre-election attack by about 200 terrorists with two terrorists being confirmed killed.

The military spokesman said that at Angodawillu eight terrorists were confirmed killed when a group of 75 cadres attacked a security forces patrol.

At Etawetunawewa in Weli Oya, a group of 25 soldiers, many of them bathing naked in the tank, after a hard day's training were repulsed an attack at dusk by two groups of terrorists numbering about 50 in each group. The soldiers had swum ashore, picked up their rifles and blasted the terrorists killing at least 20 of them. The terrorists had on radio transmissions monitored by technical sources admitted being stunned at the fierce counter attack launched by the soldiers and made frantic calls for vehicles to evacuate the wounded terrorists. Only four soldiers were wounded in this incident.